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1 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
5 VOLUME II
6 October 25, 2000
7 9:00 a.m.
8 Bethel, Alaska
9

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11
12 Harry O. Wilde, Sr., Chair
13 Robert Nick, Vice Chair
14 Fritz L. George, Secretary
15 James A. Charles, Member
16 Mary Gregory, Member
17 Lester Wilde, Member
18 Alvin Owletuck, Sr., Alternate
19 Thadius Tikium, Alternate
20
21 Vince Matthews, Coordinator

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Let's go. Tom Kron

6 want to go home. Vince?

7

8 MR. MATTHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just for
9 the record so we get it on the record, the -- several of
10 you last night, four or so, came by here at 4:50 and stayed
11 to 5:20 to hear any public comments. We did post a note on
12 the door saying that you guys left at 5:20 and there was no
13 public here for public testimony. And it's clear for those
14 that were here yesterday, but if there's new people here
15 today, that you've constantly asked is there public comment
16 or public concerns expressed, so for -- if there's new
17 people here that it appears to be your -- under your
18 direction that it's open for people to get your attention
19 to testify or comment.

20

21 That's the only housekeeping item I had this
22 morning that I know of. And I don't know if any other
23 staff have any housekeeping items before we -- before you
24 go back into the agenda.

25

26 Oh, there is one housekeeping item, which I think
27 Robert covered, but maybe some of you didn't hear. Those
28 that have their ticket portion for Kotlik need to turn them
29 in to Probably Don Rivard or Jerry Berg or -- I'm trying to
30 think who else is here from Anchorage, so those tickets can
31 be refunded, taken back to the travel agency. So that's
32 the only other housekeeping item that I know of.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Staff, do you have
35 housekeeping to take care of this morning? If it's
36 not,.....

37

38 MR. L. WILDE: Mister.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE:how about this
41 Yukon River coordinating district committee?

42

43 MR. MATTHEWS: Yes. Yes, Mr. Chairman.
44 What we've done on that and the other regions, which I
45 think would work well here, I'm just drawing a blank real
46 quick is to get the -- well, wait a minute, I need an
47 assessment. The way we've done it is we've had the
48 quote/unquote in-season managers for the Federal government
49 and the in-season manager, which is usually the -- one of
50 the area biologist for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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1 Ray Hander's here to cover the Federal in-season
2 management, but I don't know if Vince Golembecki is here or
3 if anybody knows when he might arrive.

4
5 The reason we did it jointly is that it was a joint
6 effort, especially on the Yukon, and that it be fair to
7 both to share their summaries of the Yukon season. So I
8 don't know if anybody has any update on Vince coming in.

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Shall we hold it back
11 until someone come in, or no one.....

12
13 MR. MATTHEWS: Well, I don't know if
14 someone is here from Fish and Game that could give you an
15 idea that if Mr. Golembecki is due to arrive soon or -- I
16 don't know if there's -- I don't know if Mike.....

17
18 MR. SOLOMONE: I don't know, Vince, but
19 I'll make a phone call and find out.....

20
21 MR. MATTHEWS: Okay.

22
23 MR. SOLOMONE:see what's going on.

24
25 MR. MATTHEWS: Because I think it's wise to
26 have them both up here, because it was a difficult season,
27 and communication and coordination in my opinion was
28 extraordinary. So it would be in fairness of the hard work
29 of both agencies to have their representatives here.

30
31 So if you want to wait on that, we can go ahead
32 with the items on the -- under Office of Subsistence
33 Management, cooperative projects and resource monitoring
34 projects. Those are the fish monitoring projects that are
35 going on in the Kuskokwim and the Yukon.

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, go ahead and.....

38
39 MR. L. WILDE: Item three.

40
41 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Item three, Office of
42 Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A,
43 cooperative projects and resource monitoring program. Who
44 will handle that? You?

45
46 MR. MATTHEWS: Don will handle that, and
47 then if you have any questions, there will be Don and
48 others to assist with that.

49
50 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Don

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1 Rivard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of Anchorage,
2 Alaska. These items under tab three in your booklet are
3 all informational items to give you an update on what the
4 Office of Subsistence Management is doing.

5

6 This first item on cooperative projects and
7 resource monitoring program, this is what our Fisheries
8 Information Service Division is involved in, and it's an
9 update on the status of where we're at with the projects
10 from last year, and then the process that we're in right
11 now for the 2001 projects, and then beyond that in the
12 future, the dates for everything.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: By the way, Council,
15 it's in your booklet, tab three. It's in there. Tab
16 three. Okay. Go ahead.

17

18 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
19 first page under tab three is where we're starting, and
20 I'll just read a little bit here. The resource monitoring
21 program is a unified interagency effort, let by the U.S.
22 Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance Federal capability to
23 manage subsistence fisheries, and for the capacity building
24 and integration of rural communities and Alaska native
25 organizations into fisheries management. Specific areas of
26 focus include enhancing our knowledge of fisheries,
27 subsistence harvest, and traditional ecological knowledge
28 by supplementing rather than duplicating on-going State
29 monitoring efforts. An annual program of studies include
30 identification of statewide management issues and
31 information needs, planning design and coordination of
32 field projects, data analysis, and formulating
33 recommendations for improved fisheries management. The
34 Federal subsistence resource monitoring program is
35 consistent with the Secretaries of Interior and
36 Agriculture's continued commitment to maximize reliance on
37 nonFederal partners and provide broad, direct and
38 meaningful roles for rural Alaska natives. Implementation
39 of the resource monitoring program is being accomplished
40 primarily through agreements with the Alaska Department of
41 Fish and Game, and the Alaska native and other
42 organizations.

43

44 For fiscal year 2000, there's a lot of numbers I
45 could throw at you, but just real quick, there's -- there
46 were 160 project proposals that were received, 45 of those
47 were funded, and \$5.6 million was invested in new
48 information on fisheries, subsistence harvest, and
49 traditional ecological knowledge. And you can see some of
50 the number there. If you turn to the following page, it

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1 breaks that down a little bit more into different areas of
2 the state where that money went. And just under that it
3 says projects with native -- Alaska native organizations
4 provide direct involvement and monitoring salmon run
5 strength through weir construction and operation, test
6 fishing, subsistence fishery evaluations, improving
7 subsistence harvest assessment methods statewide, and
8 conducting traditional ecological knowledge studies to
9 learn from elders about changes in subsistence fishery
10 resources over their lifetimes. Associated with these
11 projects and many others conducted by ADF&G and the Federal
12 agencies is their hiring of 69 Alaska out of a total hire
13 of 83 local hires for these projects.

14

15 There is towards about another three or four pages
16 past that second page is a summary of these projects for
17 the Kuskokwim area, and then following that for the Yukon
18 River as well. And so just an update, a summary of these
19 projects.

20

21 But going back now to the third page of this --
22 under tab three, we're looking at the schedule for the new
23 fisheries projects for this coming summer, starting the
24 summer of 2001, and our office received over 200
25 preproposals over the past few months. There's already
26 been initial screening of those projects that has pared
27 that down -- number down to a little over 100 for further
28 consideration, and requests for investigation plans.

29

30 At the -- we were -- and I'll talk about this a
31 little bit more. We were planning to have a three-day
32 training session in January, and a full day of that was
33 going to be for RAC members to look at these proposals for
34 the year 2001, the summer of 2001, to get your input as
35 well on these projects. That's still going to happen in
36 some form or other. We're not quite sure yet how that's
37 going to take place, but RAC members will have the
38 opportunity to look at these ones that are being put
39 forward, and to comment on them as well.

40

41 And then these projects for 2001 will go to the
42 Board in mid February this year for their approval as well.

43

44 The first year of this program, in 2000, was kind
45 of a quick start-up time to get projects on line, and the
46 second year it's -- we're adjusting the schedule after this
47 year to be able to allow the RAC members to assess these
48 proposals at the fall meetings. And so if you look on the
49 next page, it shows what the schedule will be starting the
50 summer of 2001. That's for this year. And then the new

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1 schedule on the following page for 2002 and beyond, so that
2 you'll have the opportunity in your -- I believe it's in
3 the fall meetings, to review these things. Excuse me, it
4 would be in the spring meetings I believe.

5
6 MR. MATTHEWS: No, it's fall.

7
8 MR. RIVARD: Oh, is it fall? Okay.

9
10 MR. MATTHEWS: Fall.

11
12 MR. RIVARD: So then that will be -- from
13 then on it will be this schedule here that you see on the
14 next page that's go a big four on the top. That shows what
15 the annual schedule will be from 2002 and beyond. And it
16 will give the regional councils the chance to review all
17 the annual resource monitoring plans in September and
18 October. So that's what I have right now, thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. I'll try to answer any questions.

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Council, any questions?

22
23 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert.

26
27 MR. NICK: I do have a question. The
28 meeting of the -- I guess in the case of the Kuskokwim, the
29 working group meetings (indiscernible) dealing with the
30 summer proposals I believe. There was some meeting called
31 for of the working group I think last week,
32 (indiscernible). Is that what you were referring to in the
33 post season meetings for the coordinating committee to be
34 involved?

35
36 MR. MATTHEWS: I -- yes and no. The -- I
37 did attend that meeting of the post season with the staff
38 as a guest of commercial fishers for the Alaska Department
39 of Fish and Game on the Kuskokwim. And that would be the
40 post season meeting. And then there was going to be one
41 for the working group, and it was rescheduled or delayed,
42 and I don't know if Charlie's here, or one of his staff.
43 That would have been the working group looking at the past
44 season, so that is still pending at least. You have to
45 remember when I travel quite a bit that I can't get to my
46 e-mails, so there's probably messages from Charlie or
47 others on Fish and Game saying when that working group
48 meeting which will look at the season in its entirety has
49 been rescheduled. So I don't know unless somebody from
50 Fish and Game is present here that knows that information.

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1 The other thing that, real quickly, Harry, on this
2 is you'll remember in January you met as three councils.
3 We quickly reviewed each of those projects, that's what Don
4 pointed out. Those are the projects that you looked at in
5 January, and by consensus vote agreed with. Your role in
6 this project, and Don can correct me if I'm wrong on that
7 is it's basically two-fold: Is, one, if you see a need for
8 additional information or research or something that needs
9 to be known more, that your role is to flag that to the
10 staff here, and then that staff would put that as an issue
11 or topic or I can't think of the right term right now, and
12 then that would be known to all who could submit for
13 projects. So that's role number 1, is you're there to say
14 we need a further understanding of whitefish populations
15 somewhere. And then -- right, identification of management
16 issues and information needs. That's a key role there.
17 And your other role is to review these projects as they --
18 before the go the Board. And my assessment, your third
19 role would be, and I think it's laid out here, is that you
20 would want reports back on those projects, because as you
21 get into these issues, you're going to need that
22 information, either if it's data on species composition or
23 data from the traditional knowledge studies. So that's the
24 role you play as a council.

25
26 As individuals, you need to need to look at your
27 area and see if there's some areas that need some further
28 look at, and then you can individually through your
29 organizations or whatever suggest it as a management issue,
30 or even put in a proposal. Some of the other councils,
31 there's members that are natural resources directors for
32 different groups, and they're putting together proposals.

33
34 So that's your role at this point in this, is to
35 look at what data do you need to function with, and what
36 data does management need to improve upon, and then this
37 group, FYS, Fisheries Information Service, along with the
38 technical committee will be the top gap to say, well, are
39 we duplicating something here? Are we doing something that
40 already exists, or is there something higher priority. So
41 I try to wake up the councils to this, because this is
42 moving the fisheries management in my opinion forward by
43 having these comprehensive review and additional funding to
44 address fish data gaps. And so with your guidance, you'll
45 help that all out. So it's going to take a few years for
46 you guys to get used to it, but it -- you do play a role in
47 it.

48
49 MR. NICK: I have another question about
50 just generally (indiscernible).....

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1 MR. MATTHEWS: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. NICK:by Fish and Game, Fish and
4 Wildlife I guess. The Governor in his declaration and in
5 his talk said that after approximately four million -- \$40
6 million scientific study of high seas or intercept or
7 whatever, salmon that's caught out here, how -- is there
8 any communication between -- from the Governor on down? Or
9 will it be a few years before it hits us, you know, here?

10

11 MR. MATTHEWS: I have no information.

12

13 MR. NICK: My question from -- in listening
14 to the Governor, is that he wants to keep going slowly
15 (ph), tomorrow, right away to save the salmon.

16

17 MR. MATTHEWS: There may be others. I have
18 no information on that.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yes, way back there,
21 next town.

22

23 MR. SOLOMONE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Paul
24 Solomone from Fish and Game. I can answer a couple
25 questions. Mr. Nick's question about the \$40 million
26 that's coming down the pipe from the sources that we're
27 getting it from. There's a meeting scheduled for Fairbanks
28 next month to begin to plan for that. So we're working on
29 it. We haven't started it yet, but there's a comprehensive
30 meeting next month to deal with that.

31

32 The working group question from a second ago, we're
33 going to -- we tried to have a post-season meeting. We
34 haven't yet. That's been rescheduled until sometime next
35 month.

36

37 MR. NICK: I will be -- as a past
38 participant of last summer's group, may I be invited
39 or.....

40

41 MR. SOLOMONE: Yeah, you will be.
42 We'll.....

43

44 MR. NICK:or someone from here?

45

46 SOLOMONE:keep you in the loop if you want to
47 be. But we hasn't done it yet. It's been planned, but we
48 haven't finished it yet. Okay. That's all.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Tom.

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1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, just to follow up
2 again on Mr. Nick's question about the \$40 million research
3 package, about three weeks ago there was a teleconference
4 that the Commissioner of Fish and Game initiated with AVCP,
5 and Kawarek, and Kuskokwim Native Association, and CATG to
6 talk about, you know, getting this process going. There's
7 been a placeholder request submitted through Senator
8 Stevens for the money. There was commitment, and again I'd
9 been pushing real hard for this as well when I was in the
10 Department, but there's a commitment to work real closely
11 with all of these regional native groups on the initiation
12 of this process, and again they're going to be moving ahead
13 this fall and winter to start to get it moving.

14
15 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, the reason I bring
16 this is the RACs, the ten RACs in the state and the
17 (indiscernible) established it seems to me a vehicle for
18 the traditional knowledge, locally put. I would hope, you
19 know, you would -- the potential effects of ballot measure
20 number one, that we would still have traditional knowledge
21 input in the study. I want to see some input from, you
22 know, people that -- our (indiscernible) elders, be that --
23 besides they take the study that we proposed, because
24 they're saying that they're looking at elder
25 (indiscernible, coughing), in here, you know, we see them,
26 but we know -- we see them every day. We have us that do
27 fish out there, we fish everywhere and we fished three
28 times before they (indiscernible) RAC. We picked one and
29 it came out of the net. We pick them when we get them on
30 the boat. And we pick them again when we help our wife put
31 them on the table. We pick them again when we put them
32 back to the water. And we pick them up again when we hung
33 up. Five times we handle those same salmon. So we know --
34 we know how they look like. So I'd like to see our input
35 into the scientific analysis of what is happening to the
36 salmon.

37
38 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Counsel Member
39 Nick, I think that's something that's been discussed a lot
40 as a really important component. You know, in the
41 discussions -- you know, the -- I think the -- it's my
42 understanding it would be a five year research funding
43 package. It would focus on the disaster area, which is the
44 Yukon, Kuskokwim, Norton Sound, and a small portion of
45 Bristol Bay, but again the major portion would be spent,
46 you know, in your area. And again there have been
47 discussions both in -- with the folks in Bethel, and
48 Kawerak was pushing very strongly as well to basically
49 bring elders in to, you know, to participate, to provide
50 their input early on in the process. During this five-year

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1 period as information was coming in, scheduled meetings,
2 you know, in the disaster area, in these -- in the region
3 to basically have the local people and the elders working
4 with the people that were collecting the information, to
5 examine it, to develop an understanding for it, so I think
6 to get a lot of local participation in the process.

7

8 MR. NICK: One final comment that I have,
9 in that schedule that you were just going through on the
10 page two. The schedule for the (indiscernible) projects.

11

12 MR. RIVARD: Page two?

13

14 MR. NICK: Yeah. Looking at it here, I can
15 understanding of the process, but it's those releases out
16 there that we need to have the same information, the same
17 understanding, to take the proposed -- they can have input
18 in the proposals, that we do solicit to have comments on
19 hunting, fishing regulations, and we have that -- you know,
20 we are -- we are legal (ph) point, so I've called the
21 Department a number of times here in the last year, wanting
22 to see more visibility, more -- for instance, see more
23 (indiscernible) information, especially on the proposal
24 process. I think I'd like -- I still would like to see the
25 fish -- the agency, Fish and Wildlife, and their staff to
26 give more information to us, to the public like we have a
27 need to, we have the local agency which is listed where
28 we'd be, and they're always looking for people, that agency
29 to come and want to, so they -- to reach out to the public.
30 And I would like to see on this time schedule here if it
31 can be -- you know, the (indiscernible) maybe a detailed
32 summary in the local tundra drums. We have two local
33 newspapers that are read by every -- probably everybody
34 that could read English. They provide valuable
35 information.

36

37 And then finally, this may be off the subject,
38 ballot measure number 1, to have analysis done by
39 scientific, professional study by biologists I believe. I
40 may be pretty hastily coming to conclusions, but to me that
41 would diminish the local traditional knowledge. Am I
42 understanding improperly or incorrectly, or coming to
43 conclusions too quickly?

44

45 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's a State
46 initiative, and that's a constitutional question, and I
47 don't think any of us are going to stick your heads up on
48 that one.

49

50 MR. NICK: I know, but.....

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1 MR. MATTHEWS: I would just encourage you
2 to talk and -- friend to friend with different people in
3 different areas to get their assessment on it, and leave it
4 at that. But that is totally out of our control to respond
5 to that question, unless someone wants to.....

6
7 MR. NICK: I understand. As I said, I may
8 be out of order here.

9
10 MR. MATTHEWS: Unless someone else wants to
11 speak on it, but.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any questions from.....

14
15 MR. L. WILDE: Ida.

16
17 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE:the council?

18
19 MR. L. WILDE: Ida. Ida.

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Ida.

22
23 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 Ida Hildebrand, BIA staff committee member. This isn't in
25 reference to Proposition Number 1, but to remind the
26 council that there are planning to be past-season
27 evaluations, and the council should prepare to send someone
28 or be ready to send someone so you should identify when
29 those meetings happen, who from this council will represent
30 the council to participate in those evaluations. And
31 they're likely to happen in November.

32
33 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any more questions? If
34 not, we go to the next one, ADF&G Alaska Intertribal
35 Council request for comments.

36
37 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman, what that is
38 is, we've stumbled at several meetings on that, basically
39 under tab three and I promise at some point we'll get all
40 these pages numbered so we can direct you better, but it's
41 about half way, a little bit over half way in the middle of
42 tab number three, it starts out subsistence harvest
43 summary. Well, it says subsistence fisheries harvest
44 assessment working group, dated September 5th. And I'm not
45 prepared really to talk about it, but we can piece
46 something together on it. This is again a project that was
47 funded to look at monitoring strategies. If you remember
48 when Don talked, that -- under the Fishery Information
49 Service Program, there's looking at harvest assessment, and
50 looking at the fishery biological data. This would be

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1 harvest assessment. So with that, I'll stop and see if
2 someone else is going to present it, but that's why it's on
3 your agenda, the Alaska Intertribal Council, for comments.
4 I don't know, I mean, who might -- I don't know if Don is,
5 or if it's.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Is anyone that -- to
8 make a comment on this certain on the agenda? If there's
9 not, we could move to the next one, staffing and
10 implementing Federal subsistence fisheries management.

11

12 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
13 Rivard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I just passed the
14 four pages of the -- or so of the document that Vince just
15 referenced is also under tab three is -- it says staffing
16 to implement Federal subsistence fisheries management in
17 your booklet there. And I'll give you an update on this,
18 because we have hired more people. Keep in mind that this
19 is all the Federal agencies that we're talking about, not
20 just the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Office of
21 Subsistence Management, and to date all the Federal
22 agencies have hired now that I'm aware of, a total of 24
23 new employees to fulfill the core functions of implementing
24 this new program that we took over a little over a year
25 ago now. We plan to hire 19 additional employees for a
26 total of 43 new Federal employees. From the old total that
27 we have -- we'd -- of 21, we've hired 18 Alaskans,
28 including seven former State fisheries managers or
29 researchers. You see some of the folks here that were
30 introduced. Tom Kron, Fred Anderson, Rich Cannon in our
31 office, who have really add -- a significant addition to
32 our staff. And it just shows you in the box here all the
33 number of people that we plan to hire in total for a total
34 of 43.

35

36 Also I mentioned earlier under the cooperative
37 monitoring program there under the fisheries information
38 service, that local hires associated with projects
39 conducted through the cooperative agreements by native and
40 other organizations as part of the resource monitoring
41 effort, again resulted in hiring 69 Alaska native/rural
42 residents to work on the projects out of a total of 83
43 local hires.

44

45 As part of the resource monitoring effort, the
46 Office of Subsistence Management will also be contracting
47 out nine technical positions to native and other regional
48 organizations. So that's in the works. I don't know at
49 what stage that's at right now. These positions will
50 enhance local capability to oversee monitoring projects and

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1 participate in the Federal subsistence program.

2

3 Also the Bureau of Indian Affairs, they've -- they
4 have recruited for a native liaison position to work
5 closely with the Federal Subsistence Board and Alaska
6 native organizations. I don't know the status of that
7 position, perhaps Ida might know.

8

9 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 The applications were sent to our personnel office in
11 Anadarko. Anadarko certified several of those applicants,
12 who were returned -- a list of those applicants were
13 returned to Nile Ceasar, the area regional director, and
14 he's to meet with Mitch Demientieff, the Chair of the
15 Board, and Tom Boyd regarding the selection of whoever they
16 choose I suppose.

17

18 MR. RIVARD: That's all I have. Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Have any question,
21 Council? Okay. Next to consolidation and coordination
22 with the State of Alaska, interim memorandum of agreement,
23 MOA.

24

25 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, Don Rivard,
26 Fish and Wildlife Service. On the next page you'll see it
27 talks about that. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife -- well, the
28 Federal agencies and the State of Alaska came up with a
29 term memorandum of agreement, in the spring, and out of
30 that -- it's an interim agreement, because there's going to
31 be several protocols on how the State and the Federal
32 agencies are working together as well as involving the RACs
33 and others. But it's -- mainly the agreement is between
34 the State and the Federal agencies, and the only -- there
35 was one protocol that was developed, and that was for in-
36 season management on the Yukon this past summer. That will
37 be looked at again, and another protocol probably for next
38 summer's in-season management will also take place. We are
39 planning to have RAC participation in that as well, but
40 we've heard from other RAC members that they would like to
41 be involved in that process.

42

43 And then there are going to be other protocols
44 developed for other fisheries around the state. I don't
45 have the timetable on any of those, but, for example, there
46 may be one developed on the Kuskokwim, also on the Copper
47 River.

48

49 And just to summarize this a little bit, in-season
50 cooperative management has worked extremely well over all.

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1 There were minor difficulties in communications between
2 State and Federal Yukon River managers early on in the
3 summer season, and some of you were involved in all that.
4 And these programs -- these problems were immediately
5 corrected. State and Federal managers now stay in daily
6 contact with each other, and are providing a very effective
7 management effort during the fall subsistence fisheries
8 which are proving to be poorer than the summer runs. This
9 is -- this was developed in mid to late August, so -- so
10 that's just for your information. There's this memorandum
11 of agreement, again, between the State and the Federal
12 agencies on fisheries management. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Council do you have a
15 question for the subject on the agenda? You must do a
16 pretty good job, no question here.

17

18 MR. RIVARD: I think it's.....

19

20 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

21

22 MR. RIVARD:probably still early in
23 the morning maybe.

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Nick? Nick.

26

27 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

28

29 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Nick. Oh, back there.
30 Okay.

31

32 MR. A. NICK: I have a question.

33

34 MR. MATTHEWS: Got to sit down here. The
35 translators won't hear you.

36

37 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman, my name is Alex
38 Nick. I'm assistant interpreter at Yukon Delta National
39 Wildlife Refuge. I think my question is mainly for maybe
40 ADF&G and maybe Federal. I'm wondering when we talk about
41 memorandum of agreement, if we're going to be considering
42 in the future the tribal governments and native
43 organizations such as AVCP and other regional
44 organizations? Because none of it -- none of those are
45 mentioned here in the mem -- the list, and everyone knows
46 that the Governor of Alaska recognized tribal governments
47 just this year, and tribal governments are going to be
48 bringing up questions about comanagement issues in the
49 villages, and I think my question is mainly just
50 opportunity for comanagement in the village level or

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1 regional level.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, I think Vince is
4 looking it up in other RAC booklets for Eastern and Western
5 Interior. We have the memorandum of agreement right in the
6 booklet itself, and for some reason it didn't get in your
7 booklet. But it does talk about how the tribes and the
8 RACs are to participate in this process as well. And I'll
9 turn it over to Vince.

10

11 MR. MATTHEWS: Yes, he's correct, it is in
12 there, but I'm not going to ignore the fact that part of
13 his question is that the tries as an entity or as a
14 consortium are not signatory to the memorandum of
15 agreement, but they are incorporated, and I don't have all
16 my notes in front of me, but I picked one. It says the
17 guiding principles, these are the principles that guide
18 Fish and Game, the State of Alaska, and all the Federal
19 agencies, so these are the guiding principles. And number
20 5 says, insure the exchange of fishery and wildlife
21 information between the signatories, subsistence users,
22 Alaska native groups, including Alaska native tribes.
23 Nonprofit regional organization and governments. And then
24 it goes on, regional advisory councils, advisory
25 committees, et cetera. So they are a part of the way the
26 memorandum of agreement is to be carried out, but they are
27 not signatures. And the same would be for the protocol.
28 Protocol on the Yukon River.

29

30 So his other question is, is what level of
31 involvement would they have? I know that the State has
32 indicated based on the disaster relief that they're going
33 to work closely with the different native groups. I would
34 also think in the -- the Federal government has within its
35 fishery information service projects doing the same on the
36 general management regime of how regulations are made.
37 Obviously we're working through the regional councils. All
38 the native groups that I know of, and I'm not sure on the
39 delta, but I assume on the delta are informed of these
40 meetings, are provided agendas and et cetera, so they have
41 opportunity to participate.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert?

44

45 MR. NICK: Okay. Kind of following up, on
46 the tribal input, you know, we did discuss it in our pre
47 (indiscernible) caucus in Anchorage, you know, and then
48 when we read all this MOA. To have a tribal sign off, but
49 after the summer, first year of a joint comanagement of the
50 fisheries, especially this -- in this region, I didn't see

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1 any later problems, and poor policy was corrected or
2 amendments, or whatever you want to call it. There
3 occurred, no matter how good something goes. But my
4 contention during the past year is that since we are --
5 since Federal Fish and Wildlife is now part of the manager
6 of the fishery resources and the game resources in this
7 reason that they should let the people know. I've been put
8 (ph) on the radio twice, I think three times now, telling
9 the people that the Federal Fish and Wildlife has taken
10 over management of our fish and game, and then I've called
11 the agency here in town, you know, a number of times, but
12 there hasn't been any follow up. The reason I'm trying to
13 get more information out is our regional association has
14 made some pretty harsh remarks about State Fish and Game,
15 how it has poorly managed or mismanaged or not even managed
16 the resources of the area, and we -- I would like to see
17 information going out that we are, you know, doing all
18 these things that are occurring with the co -- you know,
19 with the State interest in wildlife. So I think what I
20 would like to see is the associations and the villages
21 (indiscernible) themselves to (indiscernible, coughing)
22 things that happened for the last -- since last September
23 (ph). That I myself, because I'm here and attending
24 meeting, and I bring the information in a positive, you
25 know, that positive things are happening, but unless we let
26 the people out there know, then we can become another
27 agency that they look down at or that they would lose faith
28 in, because regardless of how we look at it, how we try to
29 manage in a historical sense, especially the salmon
30 resources, there's economy (ph). Last year I spent about
31 three months talking to the people at home and that --
32 trying to give them my understanding of what happened, what
33 is the process that happens when resources diminish, you
34 know, that the stakeholders that -- down here at tier II,
35 and recently they're reading things and they're talking,
36 it's happening in our language that we understand what is
37 there, too. So I'm -- I get confident that we're doing --
38 you know, doing something here, you know, with the
39 comanagement, and that something positive is happening in
40 our efforts to restore the salmon resources, to see that
41 the users, the stakeholders (indiscernible) our office
42 here, the decisions and regulations that are, you know.
43 But we've got to keep that dialogue continuously going.

44

45 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman?

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Vince?

48

49 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Nick, on that, and I
50 think Don can confirm this, and others, but I do remember

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1 hearing that there will be a newsletter of a quarterly
2 basis or some timely basis that will come out of this
3 Fishery Information Service addressing what, I'm pretty
4 sure that I've got that right, addressing this idea, or the
5 need to share in a wider audience what is happening, the --
6 within the resource monitoring project and within the
7 program in general. That's number 1.

8

9 Number 2 is part of that falls on your duties as a
10 council member to take this phone book that we give you
11 every meeting and condense it into your mind as to what's
12 the key things that you need to share in your villages so
13 they're not left out of the process. And if you need
14 assistance with that, let us know, meaning materials,
15 condensing, whatever, so if you meet with your tribal
16 council, village council, whatever group it happens to be,
17 we can provide that assistance, because we're kind of
18 depending on you to get that word out to your area as well.
19 We can send materials and et cetera, but when they hear it
20 from one of their own, it has a greater meaning than some
21 newsletter or flyer, but the newsletter does have an
22 effect, but your impact is greater. So if you need
23 assistance on that. In Western Interior we've provided
24 assistance to some of the council members to go to several
25 tribal council meetings to share what's going on.

26

27 MR. NICK: Maybe I can say something that
28 I'm doing in my (indiscernible), because I have three
29 villages right there close, so close together. We tried to
30 get a meeting in September, and line up exactly what we're
31 going to do. It's to review what the Fish and Wildlife has
32 done in the past year since past report, and then we're
33 going to possibly develop proposals that would be
34 presented. I told them that they can present more letters
35 that we can present to this RAC in Kotlik, you know. But
36 that meeting hasn't occurred because of the weather, and
37 deaths have occurred in the village. But we are meeting
38 probably here within the next two weeks, and I do accept,
39 and I confer with others what we do in -- at the -- so
40 maybe other regions can have areas to one meetings like us
41 to kind of discuss things. This is just some ideas of
42 outreach.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Les?

45

46 MR. L. WILDE: Vince, is -- you know, there
47 -- in the area that I serve in Hooper, Scammon, Chevak,
48 there's a group, a different group of fishermen out there
49 that I'd like to get information to, but there's -- I'm
50 going it on my own with my own telephone, and if I do my

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1 own traveling and all that, other expenses that I have to
2 go through that sometimes I don't have. In it possible in
3 some case where I'm asked to go to those meetings to
4 explain certain things that are going on within the fishing
5 arena to have somebody from the Department of Fish and Game
6 or somebody knowledgeable about those facts to come up
7 there and explain to the group like the Kusko (ph) Fisher
8 fishing group and those people out there that have formed
9 groups?

10

11 MR. MATTHEWS: Lester, yes, that's
12 possible. I can't speak for the State of Alaska or
13 Department of Fish and Game, but for the.....

14

15 MR. L. WILDE: No, I was talking about.....

16

17 MR. MATTHEWS:Federal side, it.....

18

19 MR. L. WILDE:Fish and Wildlife,

20 yeah.....

21

22 MR. MATTHEWS:is possible.

23

24 MR. L. WILDE:on the Federal side.

25

26 MR. MATTHEWS: And then as far as the --
27 assisting with your costs associated with that, you would
28 have to just request it through your coordinator or through
29 Don or whatever, and then it's a case-by-case basis.
30 Not.....

31

32 MR. L. WILDE: Well, that's.....

33

34 MR. MATTHEWS: I'm not saying it's blanket,
35 there has -- you have to, like you just did, say you wanted
36 to talk about different items, and then that would be.....

37

38 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, that they've requested
39 me to come to some of those meetings, and I haven't been
40 able to for a couple instances I know, because of.....

41

42 MR. MATTHEWS: I think the program would
43 fund it, but I can't say that blanketly. So if you know
44 ahead of time, then would be to contact the office. In
45 Western Interior we went through that and it was approved
46 so one of the members could go to a neighboring village for
47 a tribal council to explain what the council was doing in a
48 very important proposal that was happening in their area.
49 It happened to be with moose. So I'd say it most likely
50 would get approved, but put in for it. As far as having

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1 staff come, that would be best to work through the
2 coordinator or through the refuge since I assume it's
3 refuge lands, and they can provide assistance I assume at
4 these different meetings, and then approach Fish and Game
5 on it also. But that's kind of what we're trying to do in
6 different regions is to get the word out and to get the
7 input in on a smaller level, because meetings like this,
8 there is input, but people all can't fly here. They all
9 can't fly to Kotlik to share, so.....

10

11 MR. L. WILDE: Well, one thing you -- that
12 you and I both know is that the requests for everything,
13 and -- well, for -- concerning resources for travel or for
14 gas or whatever takes so damn long it's not even worth
15 waiting for it, you know, so it's sometimes better for me
16 to just go ahead and go whether I can afford it or not.....

17

18 MR. MATTHEWS: Uh-huh.

19

20 MR. L. WILDE:but if there was a
21 slush fund or something available, it would sure make.....

22

23 MR. MATTHEWS: Well.....

24

25 MR. L. WILDE:things a lot easier.

26

27 MR. MATTHEWS: Well, we're working on it,
28 and the person that's in charge of that division is in the
29 room. But we are working on that better. I think we've
30 gotten over the hurdle of dealing with miles by boat versus
31 purchasing of fuel. So I think we've gotten over that
32 hurdle. But if it's approved, you will get reimbursed, and
33 I know that doesn't pay ahead, but it will help you in your
34 next purchase, so I would encourage you if possible work
35 through the bureaucracy on that so you can get it
36 established, and then maybe through time that can be sped
37 up. I make no promises it will be sped up, but.....

38

39 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, I realize that, but
40 the thing is, you know, we've got it written on paper, why
41 don't we practice it, is what I'm trying to say.

42

43 MR. MATTHEWS: Right. And I think we can
44 work through that, but obviously we need to justify that
45 expenditure, so right now you've given good justification,
46 but each time that needs to be, and it's case-by-case. So
47 I don't see a problem with it, but you'd have to submit it
48 and go from there. And Fish and Game can talk about them
49 attending, that's within their prerogative, the same as the
50 refuge, but I'm pretty sure the refuge would send someone

00110

1 out.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Ida, did you raise your
4 hand?

5

6 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 It's in regards to Mr. Nick's earlier question about tribes
8 and tribal involvement. Part of the role of the native
9 liaison when that position is hired by the offices of --
10 Office of Subsistence Management is to work with the
11 tribes. And also on the fisheries projects, there has to
12 be local support, and local support is not only the
13 community, but the tribal entities and whoever is the
14 governing body in the local level. And if they don't have
15 tribal support for the projects, the projects generally
16 aren't supported.

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, I think it's what
19 really need, some villages or natives, you know, in
20 support, but we cannot get no support like this. There's
21 no one here to -- at this kind of meeting like this. So
22 there's some people that are really concerned about doing
23 that. Even in the Yukon they would like to have how to
24 apply and all those things. They don't have it. No
25 information.

26

27 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

28

29 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Anybody here? Any
30 questions for Vince or -- if there's not, we're going to
31 next one, Regional Council Fishery Training, Phase III.

32

33 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you.
34 Don Rivard, Fish and Wildlife Service. You'll see under --
35 there is a page with that heading, and this is in flux. We
36 were originally -- tentatively had scheduled this training
37 to be three days in Anchorage the week of January 22nd
38 through the 26th, 2001. But we're realizing more and more
39 it's really a conflict with the Board of Fisheries meeting,
40 and they're meeting all the month of January and into
41 February. We've already heard from other RACs that have
42 met this fall that given their preference and the
43 importance of the issues that are going to be discussed at
44 the Board of Fisheries, that they will be attending that
45 over any training we might have at that same time, and
46 rightfully so. So as of yesterday when I talked to my
47 supervisors, there still was a possibility of having this
48 three-day training, although it was looking less and less
49 likely that it would happen, at least in this time frame
50 around January/February. And what we're -- what's

00111

1 happening is at some point there is going to be this
2 training. It's just that right afterwards we start to get
3 into -- by mid February, we're starting to get into the
4 winter meetings for the RACs again, right through the month
5 of March. So we're still trying to figure out what would
6 be the best dates to have this training, if we are still
7 going to try to do it sometime this winter.

8

9 But we do plan on having a training, and we've got
10 some topics that we kind of brainstormed in our office, and
11 you see in front of you here. And we would like your input
12 on that. Do these topics make sense? Are there other
13 things that you would like to see? And we would really
14 like to hear from you on that, whether it's verbally right
15 now in this meeting, or through the coordinator later on,
16 or writing a letter to us or whatever.

17

18 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, when exactly are the
23 dates for the Fisheries Board meeting? Is that from the
24 first of January?

25

26 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, it's the first week of
27 January right through February 2nd I believe, and we've
28 been told that they often go a few days after their
29 scheduled time, so this would bump right up against that.
30 Even -- we were looking at even having this training the
31 week after, like February 5th, 6th and 7th, something like
32 that, but we start running into other things as well,
33 including other major events that start taking place in
34 Anchorage, so the facilities aren't there to have a meeting
35 of up to maybe 300 people. So it just -- it doesn't look
36 like it's going to work for this time frame of January,
37 early February.

38

39 There are a lot of issues, as you know, that the
40 Board of Fisheries is going to be talking about that deal
41 with the Yukon and Kuskokwim.

42

43 MR. L. WILDE: I was just thinking if that
44 could be incorporated into part of the training would be --
45 it could help to some degree to see exactly how the Board
46 of Fish works on some of the proposals that we have.

47

48 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, it's a point well taken,
49 Mr. Chair. It's -- the fact is that it's not a -- my
50 understanding is the Board of Fisheries is not a real firm

00112

1 schedule based on the amount of testimony they may get
2 or.....

3

4 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, I realize that, but I
5 was.....

6

7 MR. RIVARD: So it's kind of a moving
8 agenda, and so we can't really plan anything firm as to say
9 your group came in, and you wanted to go listen to the
10 Board of Fisheries talk on the issues that concern you, and
11 you thought that was going to be happening on a Tuesday and
12 we program that, and it ends up being that Thursday instead
13 of the Tuesday. I mean, it's just kind of a logistical
14 nightmare in some ways.

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, I think it would
17 be very important to let the council know what they would
18 like to see on agenda, I mean, for training. And also what
19 date would be available, because there's some other
20 activities. Always be very important for them to attend in
21 the local, and also in the Bethel area. I think it would
22 be very good to let them decide or ask them what is -- what
23 kind of training they want to see on agenda, and also what
24 date would be, because a lot of time that what they
25 conflict with other meetings. It always be kind of hard to
26 get the people to go in.

27

28 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, as a point of
29 clarification, it's just that this fisheries training would
30 be with all ten RACs.

31

32 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. RIVARD: And so that was part of it, is
35 that we've already heard from at least two other RACs that
36 I'm aware of that -- again that their priority will be to
37 attend the Board of Fisheries, and so if they have to
38 choose between our training going on at the same time,
39 they're going to be at the Board of Fisheries meeting, so
40 we could bring people in, and then they wouldn't be there.
41 So we've got to look at other dates.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Hello, Vince.

44

45 MR. MATTHEWS: Okay. Well, I just wanted
46 to point out the reason, another reason why we couldn't
47 pull it off, or may not be able to pull it off in January
48 is we're heavily dependent on Fish and Game staff who have
49 been involved in the management of the Yukon and Kuskokwim
50 River to assist with this training, and they can't be

00113

1 serving the Board of Fish and going to your training
2 session at the same time. So that's another factor to
3 consider in there. And it may end up being that there may
4 be regional training instead of statewide training. So
5 just so you understand, it wasn't just so you couldn't go
6 to Board of Fish. We needed their staff. Well, we were
7 negotiating with them to have their staff present to assist
8 with this training, so, anyway.

9

10 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, one of my friends told
11 me one time that Fish and Game thought they walked on
12 water, and if they could do that what's so hard about
13 splitting themselves in two.

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any other questions
16 from Council? If not, I think we're going to take our --
17 the one that's been secured for a man, that he's here. We
18 put him to work right away I think. Yukon River
19 Coordinating Fisheries Committee, and Yukon River Drainage
20 Fishermen Association. That's the one?

21

22 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I think,
23 Vince, were you done? He had a question on the tentative
24 schedule for the training session? Didn't you want us to
25 review that regional council fisheries training, phase
26 three,.....

27

28 MR. MATTHEWS: Yes, we -- what we.....

29

30 MR. L. WILDE:the draft agenda?

31

32 MR. MATTHEWS: What we -- it's not an
33 agenda, but what we'd like for you to do is look at those
34 topics and see if those topics would meet your needs for
35 training. Many of you -- let's see, training did not come
36 up at the January meeting. It came up when Fritz and
37 Robert attended as your representatives at the joint
38 Eastern and Western. So you kind of need to look at these
39 ideas, main topics, to see if they meet your needs for
40 training, and then as an example, you talked about the
41 interface with Board of Fisheries process. That is listed
42 down below on that. So as an example, that may address it,
43 but you may have other training needs that you would like
44 to address when this training happens. So that's what
45 we're looking at on these possible topics.

46

47 The dates thing, we can't really about dates at
48 this point, because it's just -- there's nothing to stick
49 onto there, but mainly it would be topics. Ideas. How you
50 would like it conducted. One suggestion has been to have

00114

1 council members be at -- part of the panel, if there's
2 going to be a panel discussion, instead of all the
3 biologists or fishery biologists, et cetera, that it would
4 be reports or direct incorporation of council members as a
5 technique.

6
7 MR. L. WILDE: Vince, you know, what I'd
8 like to see, you know, in the past few years, especially
9 with the declining -- the decline of the fish stocks in
10 this area, I'd like to -- if we can come up -- if you can
11 come up with some scientist that can give us the scientific
12 facts on what they think is the cause of the decline in the
13 fish -- in the salmon, it would be helpful, because it
14 would be helpful to -- for both the State and the Federal
15 agencies which is getting all the blame for the loss of
16 salmon stocks and mismanagement and all that stuff, but I
17 think we should include some scientific facts as to why the
18 salmon stock is in the shape it's in.

19
20 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Lester, yeah,
21 that is listed in there, and I'm part of that committee
22 that's putting together this training whenever it happens,
23 and names have been given to us of key scientists that are
24 looking at the, for lack of a better term, the total
25 ecosystem for the salmon, and so that has been made aware
26 of me, and it is addressed under topic, it says fishery --
27 it says status of Western Alaska salmon runs, and it says
28 possible causes of declining runs.

29
30 MR. L. WILDE: Okay. I've got it.

31
32 MR. MATTHEWS: Now -- but be fully aware
33 that we'll just probably touch upon that subject, because
34 -- that you may need to see if that opens up the window
35 enough, and then from there for future training go further.
36 A three-day training incorporating one day of reviewing
37 projects on topics like that, I could see that topic taking
38 a full semester, weeks on end. So I think we need to
39 realize that these are going to give you exposures, further
40 contacts. And then we need to open up further down the
41 road. At least that's how I would see it, because when I
42 see terms like that, that's like -- kind of like asking why
43 is there air. So realize that, that it's -- you're
44 advancing into an area where there's not a lot of
45 information presently, so.....

46
47 MR. L. WILDE: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Fritz.

50

00115

1 MR. GEORGE: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. Some
2 time ago when, you know, the chums first were in trouble,
3 was the release that came from the scientists that the chum
4 fry froze to death? Because my elders tells us that fish
5 won't voluntarily commit suicide, you know, like black fish
6 and, you know, freeze. It seems like it was a hypothesis
7 instead of a scientific study.

8
9 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, Fritz, I remember
10 that. Mr. Chairman? That was the year we had that cold,
11 cold spell with no snow cover on top, where a lot of those
12 spawning grounds, spawning areas froze completely down to
13 the bedrock, and that is one of the conclusions that some
14 of those people came up with is the fact that the reason --
15 it wasn't for -- the reason for the decline of that year,
16 but they were predicting a decline of that stock in the
17 coming years. And that was some years back.

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Tom.

20
21 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. George, Mr.
22 Wilde, and I think Lester was exactly right. I think what
23 Mr. George was referring to was the chum failure back in
24 1993. And one of the hypothesis for what happened there
25 was connected with very cold winters in the late 1980s and
26 early 1990s, you know, when those fish would have been in
27 the gravel. There were some very cold winters in the
28 Interior, and it was a concern that in some of the spawning
29 grounds, the shallower areas, you know, froze down, and the
30 ice went right down into the eggs. So it was the eggs
31 freezing during the winter. But again, that was one of the
32 hypothesis. You know, part of what we saw happen there,
33 you know, a lot of the chums that we would have expected
34 back in 1993 in fact came back in 1994. So there was a
35 shift in age composition as well, but again, you know, the
36 cold winter issue, you know, it seemed like it was probably
37 part of it. We heard from a lot of the elders about how
38 cold the winters were and what they were seeing. But again
39 it's a hypothesis, and that was what was discussed at that
40 time. Thanks.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any more question from
43 council?

44
45 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, I just have a
46 comment on this briefly. I've just been looking at the
47 ideas here, and I think they're right on target. Just to
48 keep an on-going training in these areas, because this like
49 exactly what you have written there on one page, but for
50 all of them. But this is (indiscernible) decide on whether

00116

1 -- to determine when to have it.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, if we do go to
4 the meeting, I would like to have some elders invited and
5 speak who are knowledgeable in keeping tabs on the food
6 sources. They know, they are observing it, but they're not
7 being asked to comment or make observations. My request.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Vince.

10

11 MR. MATTHEWS: Let me understand, Mary,
12 correctly that you would like elders present at the
13 different meetings?

14

15 MS. GREGORY: At the training meeting.

16

17 MR. MATTHEWS: Oh, at the training meeting.
18 Okay. That's a good suggestion, and I misunderstood that.
19 You'll have to assist us with that, with names if that goes
20 forward so we make sure we get the right ones present.

21

22 MS. GREGORY: Because we always get good
23 advice from Mr. Phillip Moses who is not here at this time.
24 I'd like somebody else to come from the other -- maybe the
25 Yukon area.

26

27 MR. NICK: Yeah, resource people.

28

29 MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

30

31 MR. MATTHEWS: Right. And I think that's
32 been duly noted.....

33

34 MR. RIVARD: Yeah.

35

36 MR. MATTHEWS:and then we'll pursue
37 that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any more questions? I
40 think it's time for us to go back to that 2.A. We've got
41 some people here I think, Ray, Vince and Tom Kron and
42 they're all here. Vince.

43

44 MR. MATTHEWS: Okay. On that, Mr.
45 Chairman, when -- before they start on that, I just want to
46 remind you you do have a resolution and letter from
47 Alakanuk that you had me pass out yesterday, so at some
48 point I'll try to reinsert that in your conversations. And
49 then I need to give you an update on regional council
50 participation in the North Pacific Fisheries Management

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1 Council. And I'll -- it will be my charge to bring that
2 up, too, at that appropriate time. I just want it noted
3 that I'll be interrupting two times. So.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay.

6

7 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Come forward,
10 please.

11

12 MR. L. WILDE: Vince Golembecki. He's
13 right there. Golembecki. Yukon River Drainage
14 Coordinating Fisheries.

15

16

17 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it's just
18 going to take them a minute or two to get ready. They just
19 landed, and I shared with them some information, so it's
20 going to take a little bit of time to get up. And
21 remember, it's the same objectives that you had for the
22 Kuskokwim one, just kind of give you an overview of what
23 happened, to get your assessment and evaluation of how the
24 coordinating committee work, and also, let's see, your
25 involvement with the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage
26 Association. I think when you get to that Yukon River
27 Drainage Association, please remember you have their
28 project director here. This is kind of a post-season
29 evaluation, so I really want to capitalize on comments and
30 how we can improve for next year, because it was a massive
31 amount of work this year, so.....

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Did you have something
34 else to go around?

35

36 MR. MATTHEWS: Yeah, I've got paper
37 everywhere. I can hand them out, or you can wait, whatever
38 you want.

39

40 MR. GOLEMBECKI: I'm going to be working
41 off of that, so you may as well.

42

43 MR. MATTHEWS: Yeah, I can hand it out now.

44

45 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Go off of it I guess. Do
46 you want me to help you.

47

48 MR. MATTHEWS: Well, I can do that.

49

50 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Okay.

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1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: I think we're going to
2 have a ten minutes break before you guys start.

3
4 (Off record)

5
6 (On record)

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE:manager, program
9 manager, Jill Klein, you want to say something towards this
10 Yukon River Drainage Fishermen Association?

11
12 MS. KLEIN: Hello, Mr. Chairman and RAC
13 members. My name is Jill Klein, and I work with the Yukon
14 River Drainage Fisheries Association, and this was just in
15 reference to the in-season fisheries management item on the
16 agenda, which is going to be spoken about next. But I just
17 wanted to mention that YRDFA has been having in-season
18 management teleconferences for the past eight years,
19 starting in 1993, and we would like to keep improving upon
20 those, and look forward to doing the teleconferences next
21 year during the in-season management. And I wanted to
22 thank the RAC members for their participation in the
23 teleconferences, and solicit input for next year from this
24 AYK group as well as the Eastern and Western Interior
25 groups on how YRDFA can do a better job in the future of
26 including all those that wish to be included, and that
27 should be included.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Do you have a question
30 for her?

31
32 MR. NICK: I don't have a question. I
33 would -- later on I guess you know report I was truly
34 surprised last summer for the complete closure, but I guess
35 in your report you'll say a few things about the
36 subsistence closure that occurred on the Yukon all the way
37 through. Last summer, last fall. So I'm just curious.

38
39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.
40 We'll call you again for down there where we get to. This
41 is one of your provide information out a while there.
42 Okay. Yukon River Coordinating Fisheries Committee. We've
43 been holding this for -- up.....

44
45 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE:since -- ee-ee.
48 (In Yup'ik)

49
50 MR. HANDER: Hello, Mr. Chairman. I'm Ray

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1 Hander with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in
2 particular the Fairbanks Fishery Resource Office in-season
3 manager for the Yukon River.

4

5 MR. GOLEMBECKI: I'm Vince Golembecki with
6 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, on the Yukon area.

7

8 MR. KRON: I'm Tom Kron, three days now
9 with the Office of Subsistence Management, Yukon fisheries
10 biologist.

11

12 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Okay.

13

14 MR. MATTHEWS: And I think everyone knows
15 me. I don't.....

16

17 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Sure. I was just curious
18 how the members felt that were on the Yukon River
19 Coordinating Committee, Harry, how you thought those
20 meetings that we did have, I believe we had that one
21 teleconference on July 5th there. It was more of a post-
22 season discussion there, but in-season we had the YRDFA
23 teleconferences. So I was just wondering how people that
24 participated in those, how they felt they went, and if they
25 were receiving the faxes and the information distribution?
26 Was it adequate?

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: You know,
29 teleconferencing this summer, I don't know, my head, it just
30 go around and around, because I go through 15
31 teleconferences this summer.....

32

33 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Right.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE:just for Yukon
36 alone. Fisheries. And it's pretty hard to, you know, to
37 remember all those things.

38

39 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Right.

40

41 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I have a question.
42 In this.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Go ahead, Robert.

45

46 MR. NICK: These -- those phone
47 conversations, they're doing the same things pretty much
48 like Kuskokwim Working Group does?

49

50 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Yes, they do have the same

00120

1 type.....

2

3 MR. NICK: (Indiscernible - simultaneous
4 speech)

5

6 MR. GOLEMBECKI:of format, yes.

7

8 MR. NICK: Escapement and opening seasons
9 and closing seasons?

10

11 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Right. Yeah, for
12 discussing information, we put out information to the
13 public, and people participating on what we're thinking,
14 you know, how our test fishing is going, you know, what
15 kind of catch we have, what's the reported subsistence
16 harvest in the different districts of the Yukon. That was
17 discussed there. You know, for the Yukon River
18 Coordinating Committee, that was two members from the Y-K
19 Delta RAC, two members from the Western Interior and two
20 members from the Eastern Interior participating in that on
21 seeing how the season was progressing.

22

23 MR. L. WILDE: Was that YRDFA
24 teleconference?

25

26 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Now, this was a
27 different.....

28

29 MR. L. WILDE: A different one?

30

31 MR. GOLEMBECKI:teleconference.
32 Yeah, this was separate there. This was sponsored by I
33 believe Vince Matthews and this office here, the Office of
34 Subsistence Management sponsored that particular
35 teleconference, because it involved at least two members
36 from each RAC member, so that was the inter-agency type
37 meeting.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Vince?

40

41 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Vince has got
42 it right there. Basically what we used is the platform of
43 the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association
44 teleconferences and incorporated the six RAC members, two
45 from Eastern, two from Western, and two from Y-K. When,
46 and I have a table on all t hat, and which I'll share with
47 you. It doesn't need to be noted, but it shows a record of
48 when people attended and who and all that. But the main
49 conclusion on the YRDFA teleconferences is that there was a
50 high participation by Mr. Wilde and Mr. Hanson, and then

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1 the other counter arts in the upper RAC regions.

2

3 When we came to a key fork in the road, a key
4 management decision, with the Federal in-season manager,
5 with consultation with the State managers, we had what are
6 called the coordinating fisheries committee meetings.
7 There was two of them. And that's noted in this action
8 here, and that's what Vince was talking about. We
9 initiated that, because there was a point in the in-season
10 management where maybe the Federal program would diverge
11 from the State in-season management, and that's where it
12 went.

13

14 So Vince is correct, we're asking how did that work
15 with YRDFA, teleconferences, how did it work with the
16 coordinating fisheries committee meetings, all that kind of
17 things, because it was just amazing how many meetings as
18 Harry portrayed. You realize for each one of those
19 meetings, we had three meetings before and two after and
20 about 20 phone calls, at least on my end. They probably
21 had 50. So we're just wondering how effective that was,
22 your assessment on it, and we want the people on the
23 Kuskokwim to understand how it worked on the Yukon. So
24 with that, I'll stop, and then at some point I can hand
25 this out later.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, before Tom, I
28 think teleconference is okay, but that it was pretty rough
29 for me this summer, because I am -- my fish camp is about
30 35 miles from Mountain Village downriver, and me myself and
31 me and my daughter, we tried to make dry fish. But every
32 time when the teleconference come, either I go up to
33 Mountain Village, or down to Emmonak, that's 30 miles from
34 Emmonak. And same time try to wash the dry fish. And I
35 didn't really satisfy that -- because I have to run my own
36 motor down and the gas and sometime I just get one way trip
37 gas reimburse. That's the hardest part. I was asked to --
38 if I go down there when it's time for teleconference, they
39 will reimburse my gas round trip. But sometime they just
40 reimburse me one way. And I think it was -- it's good all
41 right, but it's kind of hard for me to try to make dry fish
42 and go back and forth. So that's the problem I have.

43

44 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman, other council
45 members had a similar problem, and we will work with you on
46 that reimbursements. That's -- this is the first time I
47 heard it was a one-way, two-way, so we need to work on
48 that, and with Monty and others on addressing that concern.
49 But you'll see in the chart, but it doesn't matter. The
50 main point is, is that some of the other members could not

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1 attend because they were fishing. So it's something that
2 we'll work with over time and see if we can improve that,
3 because we definitely need that input and communication,
4 but you definitely need to catch your fish, too, so we'll
5 need to work on that, because from a Federal perspective,
6 from a person who listened in on those meetings, your
7 participation, John's, Mickey Stickman of Nulato, Benedict
8 Jones of Koyukuk, and Davey James of Fort Yukon, and Gerald
9 Nickolai of Tanana played very crucial roles in presenting
10 information and soliciting information from their area.
11 Now, maybe Vince or -- Vince would probably be a good one
12 to do that, because I don't know if the Kuskokwim group
13 know the agenda format that is used by YRDFA at their
14 teleconference, and that might be something to inform them
15 of, because the teleconference plays a key role in
16 collecting data, and this is the first year that I've been
17 extensively exposed to this, and my assessment, being with
18 the Federal managers, and listening to the State managers,
19 they depend heavily on that data that's being submitted by
20 those members. So I'll stop there, and maybe someone else
21 can fill in.

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Tom.

24

25 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I'll maybe
26 talk a little bit about YRDFA and the working group. They
27 both serve to provide a process, to get public input, but
28 they're a little bit different. The working group started
29 back in the late 1980s, and usually it's revolved around
30 meetings in Bethel, you know, face-to-face meetings in
31 Bethel, and then teleconferences with people. YRDFA, the
32 YRDFA process has -- again, started as Jill said, started
33 in 1993. The in-season process has largely been focused
34 around teleconferences, and in some years we've had almost
35 20 teleconferences. This past summer was very, very
36 difficult, you know, and it looks like post-season we had
37 the poorest fall chum, summer chum and chinook runs we've
38 ever seen. And were major impacts on, you know, the
39 fisheries on the river, and the people on the river. So
40 that the input was more critical than ever.

41

42 But again the Yukon is a larger river than the
43 Kuskokwim. You know, I think, you know, the realization
44 was it's -- where do you meet? How do you do that? People
45 are in fish camp, and I think again it seems like it's --
46 the way things have evolved, it's been mainly
47 teleconferences, you know, in-season, spread at critical
48 times. YRDFA's taken the lead in putting those together.
49 Occasionally Department of Fish and Game initiated some and
50 paid for some, but again in recent years, YRDFA's done

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1 that. Again, the working group has been mainly a face-to-
2 face process, but again they teleconference people in.
3 YRDFA's -- I think as you know, Harry, Lester, YRDFA's been
4 real involved post-season, you know, action in funding
5 issues, action in Washington, D.C. and Juneau, so the two
6 groups have been -- they've performed things a little bit
7 differently, but again at the heart of it, it's mainly been
8 in public input into the process, into the management
9 process, and, you know, managers working jointly with the
10 public to try to gather information and make decisions.
11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Les.

14

15 MR. L. WILDE: I have a question for either
16 the Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife. Since YRDFA has
17 been instrumental in the decision-making of the management
18 during the summertime, has either agency funnelled any kind
19 of financial help towards YRDFA in their budgetary requests
20 during the -- at the year's -- beginning of the season or
21 after? What I'm trying to say, that -- like you said, we
22 were a part of -- I serve on the YRDFA board, and we've
23 always had problems with the -- our finances and we've
24 always given the requests -- we've always considered
25 requests for -- from Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife in
26 setting up all this informational type stuff, but we've
27 never had recaptured the expenses for those projects that
28 we've helped with.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Tom?

31

32 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Wilde, you
33 know, again that's a -- I think that's been an issue that's
34 been discussed a lot. In my former role as
35 Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim regional supervisor, I was also
36 assigned responsibility as chair of the Yukon Finance
37 Committee working with Fish and Wildlife Service, National
38 Marine Fisheries Service, as well as the public. Julie
39 Roberts from Tanana was the public member on that process.
40 And in those budget requests that we've sent to Senator
41 Stevens and the Congressional delegation on behalf of the
42 Yukon River and all of the agencies working together, both
43 the State and the Federal agencies and the public, in
44 recent years there's been a YRDFA request as part of that
45 process, and Jill I think maybe knows the numbers, but
46 again this past year, there -- as a result of that request,
47 and the year prior as well, there was money that came
48 through as a result of those Federal budget requests that
49 we've all worked together on, and again as the Department
50 of Fish and Game rep at that time, you know, we'd put

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1 forward to the process in a unified funding request
2 approach. Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Alvin?

5

6 MR. OWLETUCK: Mr. Chairman, yeah, that
7 teleconference is very important, because when we're having
8 a teleconference, we're getting information from each
9 village, especially when the fish is very low. And I could
10 see where Harry's position is. We've still got tribal
11 councils, city government councils that can attend these,
12 because, you know, the information that we're getting, too,
13 is from the villages. And somebody sitting in Anchorage
14 and telling us what to do, at that teleconference tell us,
15 you know, they tell the guy over there in Anchorage that
16 this we need to do certain things. That's telling them, so
17 it's very important that we meet especially during our
18 hardship season. And you're getting information from each
19 village, but it don't have to be a member of the PAC or the
20 advisory, it could come from the city government and the
21 city council. It's got to be two people. So I think my
22 suggestion to you is you've got to use our community
23 leaders to get more information through teleconference.

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Ida.

26

27 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA staff
28 committee member. Excuse me, I apologize for interrupting
29 you, Mr. Chairman, but the cook came to us twice and asked
30 us if you would ask the people to give a show of hands of
31 how many people will be staying here for lunch.

32

33 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Raise your hand.

34

35 (Off record discussion re lunch.)

36

37 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert.

40

41 MR. NICK: It's good that we're having
42 essentially our concerns -- comments and concerns so far on
43 teleconference, that type of input from, you know, people
44 that are out in the villages, that you need information
45 from, but I'd like to come back to your summary of -- this
46 here?

47

48 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Yeah.

49

50 MR. NICK: I think my concern here is the

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1 table four and -- table four, and looking at the history of
2 the harvest numbers for district one and district two, we
3 hear quite often through the radio announcements of
4 openings and closures. These records, the harvest records
5 from 1961 to 2000, the 39 years. Our concern should be
6 down there at 2000 I think. 4,735 chinook only in district
7 one. 3,783 chinook in district two. That's probably
8 because of one -- only one opening, or maybe two openings,
9 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech)?

10

11 MR. GOLEMBECKI: That's correct. There
12 were two openings in district one.....

13

14 MR. NICK: Yeah.

15

16 MR. GOLEMBECKI:and there was one
17 opening in district two.

18

19 MR. NICK: But I think the concern there
20 should be the low number, because something happened. In
21 one year, from 1999, in that one-year period, you know, the
22 numbers dropped quite a bit.

23

24 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Yes. It was a.....

25

26 MR. NICK: According to table seven, the
27 prices were high for chinooks in 1999, the chinook price
28 for salmon in the lower Yukon was \$3.80 per pound. Last
29 summer it was \$4.57 per pound, but still the numbers were
30 less than one-fourth the '99 harvest. So something -- our
31 concern should be right there. I'm concerned about -- I'd
32 like to hear a brief I guess summary for the.....

33

34 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Do you want me to do that
35 now or I believe the summary's scheduled to come up later
36 on in the agenda.

37

38 MR. NICK: Oh, is it? Okay. Okay.

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Uh-huh. Maybe later on
41 you can do that.

42

43 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Yeah. Yeah, I can do
44 that. I'll be giving a brief summary. But like he says,
45 it is a concern, you know, it was pretty much a run failure
46 on the return of fish this year for the kings and summer
47 chum. Like you said, it's the lowest numbers since
48 statehood. You have to go way back to 1937 to see a
49 smaller commercial harvest, so, yes, it was a weak run, and
50 we do have concerns.

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1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Tom.

2

3 MR. KRON: Yeah. It sounds like Vince is
4 going to be covering things in the summary, but again as I
5 think Council Member Nick pointed out, a very, very bad
6 run. You know, it was worse than any of us could have
7 imagined. Looking back at it, you know, there weren't
8 enough fish in the run to provide, you know, for escapement
9 and subsistence needs. You know, the preseason outlook was
10 that it wasn't going to be quite that bad, but it's worse
11 than, you know, any of us, you know, I think as staff
12 talking to various folks could have ever guessed it was
13 going to be. We never thought it would get so bad that
14 there weren't going to be enough fish even for subsistence,
15 but this run was so small, there weren't enough fish in the
16 run. You know, the escapements -- I think Vince will be
17 covering the escapements weren't good, people upriver
18 weren't getting their subsistence needs met, you know, the
19 record low commercial catch, just a very, very poor chinook
20 run over all, you know, having now seen all the information
21 from the escapements and the border passage into Canada,
22 and the subsistence reports upriver.

23

24 MR. NICK: My next.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. NICK:question, kind of a comment
29 that if -- and question is I know how the working group
30 works in the Kuskokwim because I was part of it this
31 summer. And I was pretty satisfied with my input, because,
32 you know, Vince kept me -- kept on top of all the meetings.
33 But like I said, you know, maybe -- and it probably will be
34 covered later on, you know, the complete closure of
35 subsistence on the Yukon was a complete eye opener for me.
36 I was just imagining what could happen if it happened in
37 the the Kuskokwim. That's why I bring trying to get
38 information out on what happens, you know, who the
39 stakeholders are, you know, where we go from -- what is the
40 process to Tier II, because after Tier II is complete
41 closure. So I think you'll be covering that later. But in
42 that closure last summer, the Yukon River Drainage members,
43 you know, the people that you mentioned, they were
44 involved?

45

46 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Yes, things.....

47

48 MR. NICK: Did.....

49

50 MR. GOLEMBECKI:were discussed with

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1 them.

2

3 MR. NICK: Even down at Emmonak and
4 Alakanuk? They knew that subsistence was going to close?

5

6 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Right. We talked
7 with.....

8

9 MR. NICK: Just prior to the complete
10 closure there was only a Saturday only, from 9:00 a.m. to
11 9:00 p.m.? That I expected there because of what I heard
12 on the radio. But the closure kind of caught me off -- it
13 kind of scared me, too, imagining it being the Kuskokwim.
14 Because I just wanted to hear that they -- the villages in
15 the Yukon were involved from the (indiscernible, coughing)
16 all the way down, because they're all the stakeholders.

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, Robert,
19 teleconference when the time and close and how many hours
20 they're going to subsist, they're all the way from Canada
21 border all the way down to the mouth, Hooper Bay, Scammon
22 Bay, all around there. So they were -- everyone was just
23 about involved in the villages, especially when it come to
24 subsistence, because everyone was real interested in it.

25

26 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nick, we --
27 at the management level from the Federal standpoint, and I
28 think the State as well, we sent a lot of time trying to
29 contact folks when changes in the fishing seasons for
30 subsistence were coming about, and I think Vince has some
31 information -- Vince Matthews has some information on that
32 as well. But we spent great lengths trying to be as
33 informed of as possible, and that's something else we
34 certainly would like feedback on, if things like that went
35 well in your eyes. And.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: And I think it's not --
38 it wasn't only teleconference, it was also flyers are in
39 the villages. Tribal and council. Yeah, go ahead, Vince.

40

41 MR. MATTHEWS: Maybe to move this along is
42 just to summarize what would happen, and Vince can correct
43 me or add if I get this wrong, but basically when the YRDFA
44 teleconference was announced, the way I dealt with it is I
45 either was informed by Ray or Monty from the Fisheries
46 Office, or I got an e-mail directly from Dan Albrecht
47 saying the meeting would happen on such and such a time.
48 Then what we did is I know Monty and Ray would phone calls,
49 I would do faxes and phone calls to the six council
50 members. If it was a key decisional point, pending

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1 closures an that, Harry is also your chair, so I didn't
2 have to call Harry twice, or call him on that, but I called
3 the other chairs for Western Interior and Eastern Interior
4 saying, you do have your two members that are
5 participating, but we're at a key junction, would you like
6 to listen in? They would elect to listen in or not. So we
7 had that effort to get it set up, and I think I'll turn it
8 back over to Vince on how they did outreach, but my
9 understanding is Dan Albrecht would send faxes to all the
10 villages. I believe that's the flyer you may be talking
11 about. But there was extensive phone calling done to set
12 up the meeting. There was extensive phone calling that I'm
13 aware of by the in-season manager on Federal and I assume
14 on State prior to the meeting to solicit input, to solicit
15 understanding of the issue.

16

17 And then any time there was one of those RAC
18 members or another subsistence fisher in Fairbanks, and
19 they came by any of our offices, we always direct them up
20 to Monty to sit down and just have a chat and talk, because
21 many times as you have made very clear to us, Harry and
22 Lester, teleconferences can work, but it's better face-to-
23 face. So any time Benedict came in, Benedict Jones, Davey
24 James, Craig Fleener for the difference regional councils,
25 we would immediately after dealing with whatever they came
26 to us for, set up and have a cup of coffee with Monty.

27

28 I -- in all my years of working in Alaska on
29 management issues, I've never seen this level of outreach.
30 I've never seen this much work into the wee hours of the
31 morning, and on weekends soliciting input for an action
32 that needed to take on Monday morning or Saturday afternoon
33 or something. So the results were not friendly to
34 subsistence users, but they were well informed in my
35 opinion as soon as it could be made. So with that, I'll
36 stop and see if the State wants to share how they did their
37 outreach on it, but I assume it's even more extensive than
38 what -- than I've laid out on the Federal side.

39

40 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Well, we've been doing
41 these meetings and making these decisions for quite some
42 time, so it's been a normal routine, that same time.
43 Fishermen call the Department at the Emmonak office and
44 give us their input on how subsistence harvest is and their
45 assessment of the run. We call -- if we don't hear from
46 certain villages, we'll call people up there and see what's
47 happening, and then like Vince Matthews says, we do
48 extensively faxing of material before these YRDFA
49 teleconferences. We put together an information packet,
50 and we either e-mail them out to people are e-mail

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1 accessible or we fax them out out to the different village
2 or city offices, and to some people's private homes for
3 those people participating, so that everyone has the same
4 information in front of them that we do when we prepared
5 that material. And then once the teleconference starts, we
6 lay out what the material says, and then people start
7 letting us know how subsistence harvests have changed, and,
8 you know, and that's what we're using for our decisions,
9 and that's, you know, how things take place.

10

11 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any more -- any
12 questions from council? Vince?

13

14 MR. MATTHEWS: I think that to finish up on
15 the coordinating fisheries committee, I'm going to push you
16 a little bit here for the Council to reaffirm or reappoint
17 or appoint others to the two coordinating fisheries
18 committees. You kind of need to do that so it's on record
19 that those people are representing you. For Yukon it's been
20 Mr. Wilde, Harry Wilde, and it's been John Hanson. For the
21 Kuskokwim it was just Robert Nick. It would help us as
22 staff to know if those are going to continue, and I'd
23 highly recommend that you select two for the Kuskokwim so
24 we can get better coverage of the Kuskokwim within your
25 region.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: When Robert was doing
28 -- I was more like depend on Robert this summer, because I
29 had a problem with the phone, you know. I couldn't do very
30 good, but he was there and I don't know about Mary wanting
31 to be serving in that. I think it's -- I think Mary would
32 be good in it.

33

34 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, since we're on the
35 topic, Vince, we're up I guess the third time, if it's the
36 wish, the feel of the council can allow me to, I'll
37 volunteer for to be on the coordinating council for the
38 Kuskokwim again. And if there's -- if Vince would like to
39 see two, James also has some experience on the working
40 group. He's been on that working group a number -- quite a
41 number of years.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: I think -- let
44 Kuskokwim side of regional council pick, decide maybe two
45 from here. That's what.....

46

47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, that's what we
50 did on the Yukon side, because Yukon side is -- goes a long

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1 ways up, you know, and I think that the Kuskokwim side, if
2 the regional council get to pick two, it would be good, so
3 they could pick -- they know the people.

4
5 MR. MATTHEWS: And let us know those so
6 then we can inform Fish and Game and all the other ones.
7 And for those that are thinking of volunteering for that,
8 it was 15 or I don't know how many teleconferences it was
9 on the Yukon, and then for the Kuskokwim it was less, but I
10 don't see next year it increasing, and that you will get
11 faxes, many faxes and many phone calls. I don't want to
12 scare you off, but I don't want you to think it's just
13 going to be periodically you'll get a call. It's going to
14 be probably weekly for the Kuskokwim I assume. That's the
15 way it's going to go on Yukon, it would be pretty much the
16 same.

17
18 MR. L. WILDE: Vince, if you have problems
19 getting ahold of Harry, I'm phone access all summer long on
20 that processor camp, so if it's all right with the rest of
21 the Yukon side, then I'd volunteer in the event that you're
22 unable to get Harry, then you could always reach me.

23
24 MR. MATTHEWS: Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: I think while I'm at
27 fish camp, because I talk with VHF to.....

28
29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Emmonak?

30
31 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE:Emmonak Fish and
32 Game and Fish and Wildlife down there.

33
34 MR. L. WILDE: Well, we have VHF access to
35 him, too, so.....

36
37 MR. GOLEMBECKI: Okay.

38
39 MR. L. WILDE:it's no problem. In
40 fact, I go right by his camp almost every day.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, if Kuskokwim
43 side, it would be good, what I'm saying is the rest of the
44 regional councils, if they appoint whoever they want to
45 appoint on this side. Kuskokwim. (Indiscernible -
46 simultaneous speech)

47
48 MR. L. WILDE: Don't you have -- don't you
49 have some people from upper river that -- I don't know
50 how.....

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1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. L. WILDE:Robert consider
4 himself lower river, middle river, or what part of the
5 river, it would be.

6

7 MR. NICK: Well,.....

8

9 MR. L. WILDE: If you spread it out between
10 upper and lower river it would be more effective, I think.

11

12 MR. NICK: Well, probably up to the working
13 group members. My participation last summer, there was a
14 vacancy from the lower river.

15

16 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, lower river is
17 down.....

18

19 MR. NICK: And I was.....

20

21 MS. GREGORY:that's the need.

22

23 MR. NICK: I was.....

24

25 MS. GREGORY: Upper river people are well
26 represented.

27

28 MR. NICK: Part of the coordinating group I
29 guess on the -- I've always been recognized as a member of
30 the regional advisory council for Federal Subsistence Board
31 .

32

33 MR. L. WILDE: Why don't you ask Mr. James
34 Charles if he's like to -- Charles if he'd like to
35 volunteer?

36

37 MR. CHARLES: Yeah, if they elect me, I can
38 (In Yup'ik).

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: I think last year we
41 kind of recommend Quinhagak.....

42

43 MR. MATTHEWS: Willard Church.

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Willard Church.

46

47 MR. MATTHEWS: I contacted him, and he
48 declined, because his main area of interest in fishing was
49 -- I don't remember the name of the river quick enough, but
50 it wasn't the main stem of the Kuskokwim, so he felt it

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1 would be wise to have someone else.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Kanektok?

4

5 MR. L. WILDE: Tuntutuliak's not too far
6 from the mouth.

7

8 MR. MATTHEWS: So then it would be Robert
9 Nick and James Charles for the Kuskokwim is what -- and I'm
10 taking it to be that Harry Wilde and John Hanson would
11 remain for the Yukon, and if we can't get ahold of Harry,
12 we get ahold of Lester? Okay.

13

14 MR. L. WILDE: And I could get ahold of
15 Harry.

16

17 MR. MATTHEWS: Oh, you would get ahold of
18 Harry. We've been thinking about radio collaring him,
19 but.....

20

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That works.

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Anything else?

24

25 MR. MATTHEWS: I think that's done for the
26 coordinating fisheries committee part, yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Ida?

29

30 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman,
31 Ida Hildebrand, BIA staff committee member. In yesterday's
32 discussion, there was an expression of concern over lack of
33 paperwork, that the members weren't feeling like they were
34 getting copies, and in the discussion this morning you were
35 informed that copies of all materials are faxed either
36 through e-mail or faxed to the city office or tribal
37 office, so it might be beneficial for the council members
38 to check in at the local offices to check on the
39 information that will be discussed in the teleconferences.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, in some places,
42 like my village, it's pretty hard to get one sheet of paper
43 like this. Sometime it cost me \$2 to take them out. I
44 have to pay for it out of my pocket. One sheet of paper
45 for \$2. I've got, you know -- I had fax machine and all
46 that in my house, but I don't hook it up. It costs too much
47 to run. I mean, I pay for it out of my pocket. It's kind
48 of hard. And one time that he -- Vince supplied me a lot
49 of paper, and it's helped. Sometime I trade it with the
50 city or tribal to get fax paper. Some of that paper. Tom?

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1 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, you know,
2 we've been talking about teleconferences, talking on the
3 phone and faxes and that sort of thing, but I think the
4 face-to-face communications are really good. I remember a
5 couple of times when you came down, and came into the
6 Emmonak office, and we asked you to take your shoes off and
7 come on in. We got you coffee and a sandwich I think once
8 anyway. But it's good, the face-to-face communications is
9 good. And I remember once a number of us went over and we
10 talked over the process and got to talk to Lester as well,
11 but I think to the extent that in the future we can improve
12 and build on communications, you know the written
13 communications, the phone, distribution of materials,
14 things that could be done to improve those communications
15 and that input process I think are going to help everybody,
16 you know, in the future seasons.

17
18 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman?

19
20 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Uh-huh.

21
22 MR. HANDER: I'd like to take a few minutes
23 and kind of review the Yukon River Drainage Subsistence
24 Salmon Fishery Management Protocol, because I think since
25 it is kind of the only working protocol at the moment, it's
26 important, especially since folks from the Kuskokwim area
27 are here, that it would be helpful for them to kind of get
28 a feel for how this went for joint management, and for the
29 year 2000. And I'll just -- I think you all got a copy of
30 this. It got handed out, Vince.....

31
32 MR. NICK: Yeah.

33
34 MR. HANDER:handed them out to you a
35 moment ago, but I'll just -- I'm just going to take some
36 excerpts from this, and just kind of read through it so
37 people can hear it.

38
39 The objective of the protocol is to provide a
40 framework for coordinated subsistence fishery management
41 between Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Federal
42 Subsistence Management Program for the Yukon drainage. And
43 the goals of coordinated State and Federal program are to
44 manage the fisheries, all fisheries for healthy fish
45 populations, sustained yield, while providing priority for
46 subsistence users in all the waters. Second, to provide
47 commercial, recreational, and personal use harvest when
48 harvestable surplus is sufficient, and to maximize
49 cooperation between State and Federal agencies, and
50 minimize disruptions to resource users and existing agency

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1 programs.

2

3 And I'll skip over to page two there. The
4 justification for the protocol. Let's see, with the
5 implementation of the Federal subsistence fisheries
6 management program, Federal and State in-season management
7 actions, if not coordinated with each other, certainly have
8 the potential to cause unnecessary disruptions to the
9 established fisheries, confusion among fishers, and
10 unintended misunderstandings between State and Federal
11 managers. The Yukon River drainage salmon fisheries
12 require very intensive in-season management because of
13 varying run sizes and timing, and the ability to accurately
14 forecast abundance preseason. Additionally, in some
15 fisheries there's very -- extremely short time period when
16 salmon are available to harvest.

17

18 And I'll skip down to the bottom. The coordinated
19 fishery management. The intent of this protocol is to
20 formalize the working relationships between State and
21 Federal managers and foster cooperation with regional
22 advisory councils and fisheries interest groups. Under the
23 coordinated management system, in-season subsistence
24 fishery management will remain a primary -- primarily a
25 State function except where applicable on Federal waters.

26

27 Skip over to the next page there. Preseason
28 planning. State managers will provide Federal managers
29 with drafts of preseason management plans, fisheries
30 outlook and management strategies. Federal managers will
31 review these plans with affected regional advisory councils
32 to identify any potential conservation concerns and issues
33 that may arise associated with meeting subsistence uses of
34 qualified Federal users on applicable Federal waters. This
35 is very important to the regional advisory councils and the
36 coordinating fisheries committees to be extremely aware of
37 their ability to have input at this level.

38

39 In-season management. Information from in-season
40 stock and harvest assessments provides basis for the in-
41 season management decisions to open/close or modify fishing
42 seasons or periods or areas. At the moment, the Federal
43 Subsistence Board has granted Monty Mallard or his -- at
44 least his position the authority to make time and area
45 closures, and that's the extent of our management ability
46 at the moment. The -- any other items that would come to
47 the attention of the Federal Subsistence Board, they take
48 care of things like gear changes and things like that, just
49 so you're aware, there are some restrictions at the
50 managerial level.

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1 During the season, extensive involvement of fishers
2 through Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association provides
3 input to the decisionmaking process. The managers may also
4 meet with other organizations and communities on these
5 management issues.

6
7 Page four, Federal managers are responsible for the
8 management of subsistence fishing by qualified rural
9 residents in applicable Federal waters. Federal managers
10 will consult with State managers when considering in-season
11 regulatory actions, and the equivalent of Alaska Department
12 of Fish and Game emergency order is -- on the Federal side
13 is a special action.

14
15 MR. SUNDOWN: Ray, can I interrupt you for
16 second.....

17
18 MR. HANDER: You bet.

19
20 MR. SUNDOWN:for further
21 clarification for the board, is does Monty Mallard's
22 position have time and area authority or is it just open
23 and close, for the clarification of the board?

24
25 MR. HANDER: I believe they have open and
26 -- Monty has open and close abilities. Somebody can back
27 me up, please.

28
29 MR. MATTHEWS: Yeah, he just has authority
30 to open and close.

31
32 MR. SUNDOWN: So it's not time and area
33 authority?

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

36
37 MR. HANDER: Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you for
38 correcting me. Let's see here. Federal managers will seek
39 the advice of the Yukon River Coordinating Fishery
40 Committee members when time permits. Time is of the
41 essence in issuing special actions and inter-agency
42 consultation shall not delay the timely issuance of special
43 actions.

44
45 Federal/State consensus on in-season management
46 decisions may not always be achieved. If differences
47 cannot be reconciled, the respective agencies may implement
48 actions in accordance with their agencies mandates and
49 applicable regulations for waters under their respective
50 jurisdiction.

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1 And the post-season evaluation. Following the end
2 of the season, State managers will prepare their annual
3 fishing season summary report. Federal managers will
4 provide a review of input from Federal agencies and
5 subsistence users. An evaluation of interagency
6 coordination and recommendations. Federal managers will
7 include regional councils in their post-season review.

8
9 Down in the roles section, regional councils,
10 subsistence users and other affected public interests will
11 review management plans to identify resource subsistence
12 concerns, who would participate in meetings between State
13 and Federal managers and fisheries interest groups before,
14 during and after the season. Would receive relevant State
15 and Federal in-season news releases. Participate in post-
16 season reviews and evaluations.

17
18 Federal managers would participate in State
19 preseason and in-season meetings and conference calls with
20 fishery interest groups. Provide input to State -- to the
21 State during development of 2000 or any following year
22 Yukon area preseason management plan. Share fishery
23 information with State managers in a timely manner to
24 monitor fish runs. Provide input to State managers as
25 decisions on fishery openings and closures are being made
26 with State managers as needed. Issue Federal special
27 actions and news releases. Receive relevant State
28 emergency orders and news releases. Participate in post
29 season reviews and evaluations of State managers.
30 Coordinate with Yukon Coordinating Fishery Committee and
31 other affected interests.

32
33 And State managers. They participate in meetings
34 with fishery interest groups, subsistence users and Federal
35 managers before, during and after the season. Finalize
36 Yukon area preseason management plans. Share fishery
37 information with Federal managers in a timely manner to
38 monitor in-season fish runs, and consult with Federal
39 managers during the season. Issue State emergency orders
40 and news releases. And receive relevant Federal news
41 releases and Federal emergency orders, and conduct post-
42 season reviews and evaluations.

43
44 That -- it's a lot of -- that's a mouthful, but a
45 lot of it boils down to communication is the biggest key
46 that we found this past season to making this all work and
47 putting this protocol into effect. I think as was stated
48 before, there were some minor difficulties early on, and
49 figured out -- learned from those lessons and picked up the
50 ball and try to make things work.

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1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert.

2

3 MR. NICK: I had a question on this. I
4 have questions about the input to the RAC (indiscernible)
5 to the discussions. The Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's
6 Association. It's pretty informative (ph) and now I know
7 how they were utilized last summer. And on the Kuskokwim,
8 I know that process, because I'm, you know, I hear by
9 radio. But last October AVCP attempted to -- in fact 28
10 villages, 28 village representatives from this area came to
11 Bethel to have the initial meeting of the Kuskokwim River
12 Drainage Fishermen's Association, KR DFA. Is that
13 association that you have on the Yukon -- they tried to
14 form it in October, but they claim that they had -- there
15 were four shy of having a quorum to form it, so they are
16 going to attempt to have another meeting probably in the
17 future. I don't know how near in the future. But if they
18 do form it, how are they going to be -- what status are
19 they going to have as far as having input into the
20 discussions, the whole process. Will you recognize them as
21 you did the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association?
22 And where does that put the Kuskokwim Working Group, if we
23 could unify? So that's -- it's right here in front of us.
24 Because they're going to -- they are going to have another
25 attempt I think next month, November, to hold a meeting to
26 form the Kuskokwim River Drainage Fishermen's Association.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Vince?

29

30 MR. MATTHEWS: I'll attempt to answer that
31 from the Federal side, and then Charlie may want to speak
32 from the State side. My understanding on the Federal side,
33 we'll use whatever platform is necessary to get the
34 communication going on the full drainage. The newness of
35 that group, it may end up resulting in some scheduling
36 conflicts, and it would be up to the two members on the
37 Kuskokwim Coordinating Fisheries Committee to decide if
38 they also want to participate in a whole another set of
39 meetings. But what we will do is whatever is necessary to
40 get the maximum amount of communication and input on the
41 Kuskokwim. So that would be my understanding. Robert may
42 know different, because the in-season manager for the -- or
43 add the same. The in-season manager for the Kuskokwim is
44 Mike Rearden, but from the Federal subsistence program
45 aspect of it, we would use whatever channel is available
46 within reason.

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any more questions from
49 council?

50

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1 MR. BERKY: Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

4

5 MR. BERKY: Charlie Berky, Fish and Game,
6 Bethel here. To address Robert Nick's question from the
7 State here, the -- I was -- we were at that meeting, the
8 original meeting when AVCP had a meeting of local village
9 people to explore the formation of a YRDFA like group
10 called KR DFA for the Kuskokwim River drainage. As Robert
11 said, they weren't -- they didn't have a quorum, and they
12 weren't able to take any real decisive action, but they did
13 say that they would form a committee and they would work on
14 -- still work on forming this group and seeing if they
15 could get it off the ground. Since then, basically AVCP is
16 leading the effort on this, in this regards, and so -- and
17 we're working with them, but I can't speak for AVCP, they
18 haven't -- I haven't had any updates or any information.
19 Maybe Robert knows more than I do as to how that's
20 progressing.

21

22 But as far as the management of the river, and how
23 KR DFA would -- how KR DFA would work, would work in regards
24 to management of the Kuskokwim River, right now we have the
25 working group system set up by the Board of Fish to get
26 involved in the intensive in-season management. We would
27 continue -- we would continue with that, using that forum
28 for in-season management as we have, unless the Board of
29 Fish told us otherwise. And then KR DFA, we would also --
30 as the Federal government would we would also -- if KR DFA
31 did form and did become an organization, we would use them
32 in any -- you know, however we could. We would solicit
33 their input, and we would integrate them into the
34 management as we could, just to -- you know, as it
35 develops, and as things developed. But we would -- we
36 would still be -- we would still be continuing the working
37 group process, and then we would work with KR DFA as it
38 developed, if it -- if and as it develops, to see where
39 their role is in the management. We would find it -- we'd
40 basically see how it develops and be open to integrating
41 them and calling upon them and using them as things
42 progress.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Tom.

45

46 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I'll just follow
47 up a little bit on what Vince and Charlie said. I -- it
48 seems like the main thing here is to have a good
49 communication process, you know, with all the public, with
50 the regional councils, you know, coordination between the

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1 State and Federal staff, and, you know, historically that
2 process has been YRDFA on the Yukon and working group on
3 the Kuskokwim, but again the main thing is as we move into
4 the future, to have good communications, have everybody
5 talking to one another, you know exchanging information,
6 gathering input, and I'm sure there will be changes. You
7 know, there's needs to improve, but as you said, on the
8 Yukon in particular, and the Kuskokwim people I'm sure feel
9 the same way, it was an incredible load on everybody in the
10 public to participate in the process, and you've got to
11 consider that in the process as well. But the main thing
12 is to get good input, good communication, get people
13 talking to one another, face to face, over the phone, and
14 exchanging information. Thank you.

15

16 MR. BERKY: I have -- basically it's an
17 announce to make here, and it's that there's going to be a
18 meeting in Anchorage the last week of November, and the
19 purpose of this meeting is to provide an avenue for
20 interaction and input into the in-season subsistence
21 fishery management on the Yukon River. And this will be an
22 opportunity for the Yukon River Coordinating Fishery
23 Committee to evaluate how in-season management went, as
24 well as recommendations on Yukon River subsistence fishery
25 management protocol, because this protocol that I was just
26 taking some time to go over still needs some fine-tuning,
27 and having input from the CFC is going to be extremely
28 important to the evolution of this protocol, so we
29 certainly want you to know of that meeting.

30

31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What's a CFC?

32

33 MR. BERKY: The coordinating fishery
34 committee, I'm sorry. So I just want to make sure that
35 that's public knowledge.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: I got to bend Harry's elbow
38 on that, would you be available the last week of November
39 and then I'll contact or someone will contact John Hanson.
40 It's easy to know now if you know -- if you're available,
41 it's somewhere around November 27th through the 30th,
42 somewhere in there to travel to Anchorage.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I got to talk to my boss
45 first.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MS. GREGORY: I like that.

50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: If flowers and candy works,
2 just let us know. But kind of get back to one of us, give
3 me a call on that because we need to start planning that
4 fairly soon here with all the holidays and all the other
5 things going on. And then I'll contact John Hanson to find
6 out his availability. But this is a key junction, key
7 meeting, and it does follow-up with your concerns as well
8 as all the other concerns, it's a face-to-face meeting. We
9 roll up our sleeves and talk it out.

10

11 So thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions.

14

15 MR. NICK: I'm glad you agree with me that
16 communication needs to occur between the agencies and the
17 stakeholders. I've been talking about that for years so.
18 You know when the letter from Tom Boyd came to my village
19 in regards to the fisheries management for this area, you
20 know, I was really happy and now management is coming
21 closer and closer to the users but the absence of any word
22 for any information coming beyond that letter, one page,
23 disappoints me.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

26

27 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik)

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yupik)

30

31 MS. GREGORY: I was just suggesting that
32 you guys should invite one from the Kuskokwim area, a RAC
33 member for your November planning or meetings so that they
34 can go and observe how that -- what you call it YRFDA, how
35 they're working because we do need a lot of -- kind of an
36 evaluation into working with those two governments because
37 we're very new in this area.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, we can
42 forward that request, if I understand, that you would want
43 one member from the Kuskokwim to attend this meeting in
44 November.

45

46 MS. GREGORY: As an observer.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: It would help us greatly if
49 someone would raise their hand and volunteer to be that
50 person.

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1 MS. GREGORY: One of these younger boys.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: We can get back to you on it
6 as far as getting approval but my gut would tell me, which
7 usually is 50 percent right, that that would be wise to do
8 that and I think the program probably would fund it. At
9 some point there'll be a protocol, I assume on the
10 Kuskokwim. So either during a break or sometime give me a
11 name and then we'll run that through as far as getting
12 approval to go to this meeting. But we'll need a name.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What dates?

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: No dates have been set other
17 than the last week of November.

18

19 MS. GREGORY: Last week in November.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: So I don't know what that
22 meant. I heard it might be Tuesday of that week but it's
23 in flux. And maybe Ray has a further date, but I'm not
24 sure a date has been set, just the last week in November.

25

26 MR. HANDER: That's the best that I have at
27 the moment.

28

29 MS. GREGORY: Because do you have tentative
30 dates so that we can work around them.

31

32 MR. HANDER: I will contact Rod Simmons and
33 find out.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: But if you can give us a
36 name, sometime today, we'll run through that request and
37 we'll see what can be done.

38

39 MR. NICK: I guess that will give us some
40 better information to -- can you sort of give us some
41 dates?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Maybe Ray can give
44 Rod a call or someone else can give Rod a call, I don't
45 know where Rod is at this moment, someone else maybe knows.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: Well, let him give you an
48 estimate date or a tentative date so that -- you don't
49 usually change them far away from that.

50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: We'll make a call on that and
2 try to find out.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anything else?

5
6 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik)

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yupik) We'll go to
9 the next on our agenda and then we'll go to a lunch break
10 after we take this one on our agenda, on A, B, C, D, E,
11 statewide rural determinations.

12
13 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

14
15 MR. HANDER: Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who's taking that. Before
18 you leave, Vince, I didn't have the opportunity to thank
19 you for all the input and help you gave us this summer, and
20 now is a good time to do it, I think. Thank you.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

23
24 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
25 Rivard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of
26 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. In your booklet under
27 Tab 3 towards the very end there's the statewide rural
28 determinations page.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Page what?

31
32 MR. RIVARD: I'm sorry there's not a
33 corresponding page number for that, but it's just before
34 the subsistence lifestyle art contest 2000.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's three pages from the
37 end.

38
39 MR. RIVARD: Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

42
43 MR. RIVARD: This is also for the RAC
44 member's information.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

47
48 MR. RIVARD: Okay, very good. Under the
49 Alaska National Interests Lands Act or ANILCA, the Federal
50 Subsistence Board, every 10 years is to review all the

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1 rural and non-rural determinations throughout the state, so
2 it is something that's mandated under ANILCA and we're at
3 that point now. The Board is going to be using, among
4 other things, the census 2000 data to help them in that
5 process. But it was also determined by the Board to go
6 with a third-party contract to develop a statewide rural
7 determination methodology, and this methodology will be
8 utilized as one of the tools, analytical tools that the
9 Board will use to review and to look at these rural and
10 non-rural determinations. So we're in the process, the
11 Office of Subsistence Management is the lead on this in
12 developing the contract, letting out the contract,
13 selecting the contractor and then overseeing this contract
14 to completion.

15

16 There is a technical evaluation panel
17 that's been put together made up of four Federal employees
18 and one State employee. This contract, again, is in the
19 stage of development right now. Laura Jergenson here, our
20 anthropologist is heading the effort to develop a more
21 detailed statement of work and then I will let Laura talk a
22 little bit about that as well as kind of what we see the
23 schedule being to get this contract out for bid and then
24 just the timing of this whole contract, and I may have some
25 more things to add afterwards. Laura.

26

27 MS. JERGENSON: Mr. Chair and members.
28 Again, just reiterating -- well, Laura Jergenson,
29 anthropologist, Fish and Wildlife Service. Just again, as
30 you all know very well the whole subject of what is rural,
31 that was the specification used in Title VIII and then from
32 that, the Federal Board in 1990/1991 came up with using a
33 few different criteria or factors in saying what is rural.
34 And that was mostly they relied on population numbers and
35 those populations were, if you were less than 2,500 people
36 you were automatically rural. If you were between 2,501
37 persons up to 7,000 people, that was considered a middle or
38 neutral area, a grey area, and many villages are considered
39 rural, as Bethel is an example of. And then over 7,000 it
40 was considered that that could be non-rural, but again all
41 of these decisions are totally up to the Board's
42 discretion, too. These were not hard and fast rules. And
43 again, these were written into the Federal regulations and
44 they also looked at shared school district, access to
45 roads, highways. You know, if you were a major regional
46 hub like Bethel, Kotzebue, Barrow and things like that.

47

48 So what this new contract or methodology --
49 or methodology being like a process or a way to look at all
50 sorts of ways of life that people have, you know, way

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1 beyond population, like what types of animals and fish do
2 people harvest. What are the spiritual and cultural
3 components and how does that factor into what is rural, you
4 know, again, what goes into a subsistence way of life. So
5 that's what this contract will do, and the reason it's a
6 third-party, basically you know why we don't have Fish and
7 Wildlife or Fish and Game automatically doing it, is
8 because the Board felt strongly that there should be an
9 outside, hopefully non-biased or a new approach to this
10 whole matter. But basically what we're seeing is
11 University of Alaska, non-profit tribal organizations,
12 anyone will be able to bid on this contract. And certainly
13 I know, myself and the other technical panel members, and
14 they are Dr. Don Calloway, anthropologist with the National
15 Park Service, Dr. Jim Fall with Fish and Game, Taylor
16 Brelsford with Fish and Wildlife Service and Pat Reed, who
17 is with Forest Service, myself, more organizing and getting
18 things around and conducting meetings; but that is what
19 we're -- we're just developing the most important areas we
20 want the contractor to look at. And what this will do is
21 once this is completed, it will go to the Board, at a
22 meeting, and at the Board meetings, for example like the
23 winter meetings that are coming up, we envision the RAC
24 participation with two members of each Regional Council and
25 it would be done in a way sort of like the fisheries
26 implementation management was done, I believe you met with
27 the Board. And so there would be full participation.

28

29 And what is going to happen is once the
30 panel has a work paper thing that we feel comfortable
31 letting people review on, then it goes -- it will be
32 conducted at that meeting, so RAC participation and the
33 Board at that time will discuss it, can say, you know, we
34 don't like it, you have to add this, you didn't add that.
35 So it's a process and there will be significant
36 participation from the RAC and from other people, you know,
37 at the local level.

38

39 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I have a
40 comment to make. Why not just get the RACs involved in the
41 first place with your committee and not way for somebody
42 else who always has to make a determination of who I am and
43 then come back and say, what do you think of this? Why not
44 involve the people right away so they can put input into
45 it. Because those doctors don't know what rural people
46 are. They don't know what we are. They look at us in
47 numbers.

48

49 And Mr. Chairman, my suggestion is that if
50 you're going to work among -- regarding people in the rural

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1 villages and areas, you should involve them from the
2 beginning, not just have them approve what you've done
3 already.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, let me ask you one
6 thing. Bethel is not qualified as a rural village?

7

8 MS. JERGENSON: No, it is rural.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It is rural?

11

12 MS. JERGENSON: Definitely, yeah.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I was going to ask
15 you about it because of Kenai, what the Board approved that
16 it was rural, in the Kenai.

17

18 MS. JERGENSON: Well, last fall -- I mean
19 at this past meeting when they did -- the Board did act on
20 making the entire Kenai Peninsula rural, that, again, they
21 looked at all sorts of factors and population and they
22 decided -- they were using the old regulations and said,
23 well, we think it is rural. And the Kenai decision had
24 nothing to do with this 10-year look because, again, as Don
25 was saying, we have to do it by law. But whatever happens
26 with the Kenai, you know, as far as when we get these
27 results in and we figure about a couple more years, by 2003
28 or 2004, then the Kenai Peninsula and certain communities
29 that are perhaps right around 7,000 people that have other
30 -- that they will be sort of reviewed and examined. And it
31 doesn't mean that anything will change, in fact, most
32 things will probably not change at all. You know, most
33 people, like yourselves will be rural subsistence users.
34 But it's a tool.

35

36 And responding to Mrs. Gregory, I totally
37 agree with you more, personally, and I really feel that's
38 critically important. And Ida Hildebrand, Staff Committee
39 member of BIA, we met and she provided a lot of good
40 points, ideas, other things to look at in, again, how to
41 evaluate what's rural. But the Board and Fish and Wildlife
42 have made, they'd like to follow this process where --
43 because I believe their reasoning was, if the RACs and
44 other local people are involved right from the start, then
45 every non-profit or every -- then maybe environmental or
46 maybe the State judicial system would be involved, and
47 we're trying to keep -- I believe they're trying to keep --
48 that's why. But I apologize for that and I will definitely
49 tell the Board your feelings.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

2

3 MR. NICK: No, you first.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

6

7 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, just to add to that
8 and try to answer Mrs. Gregory's question or comment.
9 There are some real strict Federal contracting
10 requirements.

11

12 MS. GREGORY: No, I'm not talking about the
13 contract, I am talking about the people who are making the
14 determinations of what's rural or what's not.

15

16 MR. RIVARD: Well, that was the other point
17 I was going to get to. You may be getting confused. This
18 technical panel is putting together the statement of work
19 that will go into the contract with the people who will
20 actually be doing the contract and coming up with this
21 methodology. The people that we're talking about right
22 now, this technical panel that Laura talked about, who is
23 on.....

24

25 MS. GREGORY: I know what she talked about,
26 and I think that technical to you is learned people.
27 Technical to me is my elders, who already know what's going
28 on. Ida.

29

30 MR. RIVARD: Well, okay, I understand that.
31 It's also this is something that the Staff Committee first
32 came up with last spring and what this panel now is doing
33 is making the statement of work that's going to go into
34 this contract much more specific because we have to make
35 sure that what we want the contractor to do is very well
36 spelled out in the contract language. So that's what this
37 panel is doing right now. They're just adding more detail
38 to what was already determined by the Staff Committee for
39 the Board. So again there are strict contract requirements
40 as to who can be on this panel and most of the times, I'm
41 not completely sure of this but I think most of them have
42 to be, if not all of them, in certain stages have to be
43 Federal employees because it is a Federal contract being --
44 process that's going on. So it's not like we're trying or
45 have tried to exclude anybody but there are some kind of
46 rigid requirements that we have to follow as well in the
47 contracting process.

48

49 MR. SUNDOWN: For the clarification of this
50 Board, I think what Mrs. Gregory is referring to is the

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1 Federal Subsistence Board can, by itself make a
2 determination of who is rural and who is not, in and of
3 themselves, they don't need a contractor to do that. And I
4 think what she's referring to is that she would like the
5 input of regional advisory members or people in this region
6 or a process to the Federal Subsistence Board for that to
7 take place, and you don't need a contractor for that, I
8 think is what her point is, just for clarification of this
9 Board.

10

11 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik) Ida.

12

13 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. I totally
15 agree with the comments of Mary Gregory. And although the
16 Staff Committee had made recommendations and it was
17 presented to the Board as a means of going forward and
18 there is a technical committee, I think your comments are
19 still valid Mary and I will certainly right a letter to my
20 Board member and CC all of the Board members with your
21 concern.

22

23 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Then I think I will get Ida
28 back up here for the next part on this because I'm a little
29 weak on this. But my understanding is is that there will
30 be two members involved when the Board discusses -- two RAC
31 members have been requested when the Board discusses the
32 rural determination process. And also, I think Ida can
33 verify that once those rural determinations come to a point
34 of a decision by the Board that they'll be reviewed by the
35 Regional Advisory Councils with their recommendations.
36 That's how I understood it at another meeting.

37

38 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
39 Committee member. The work products that come back to this
40 committee, when they're presented to the Board will come
41 before Chairmans of the various committees that are
42 assigned to work with the Board before it's a final
43 product. Once the whole thing is completed and the Board
44 accepts the new product, before any village of this region
45 is considered, this Council will be fully involved in that
46 decision. But what Mary is referring to was the beginning
47 of the discussion of the criteria, which is a separate
48 issue. But work products will be brought back to whomever
49 the Council members are that are appointed to work with the
50 Federal Board as the project evolves.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, if I may add to
4 this a little bit. This is, again, going to be one
5 analytical tool, an additional one that the Board doesn't
6 have right now. There is, in theory, the option that this
7 contract will be let, the methodology could be developed
8 and the Board, in consultation with the RACs could decide
9 that it's not even a methodology that they want to use,
10 even after all this process goes on, when the contract is
11 finished. So you know, we can't anticipate what that
12 methodology is going to be, but there are all sorts of
13 options, again, as Ida just said, you will have the ability
14 to comment on some of the products that are coming out of
15 this contract as well as the methodology when it's proposed
16 to the Board, you know, whether this seems valid to
17 everybody and it's something logical and it should be used
18 or not used. So there will be all those chances for input
19 from the RAC members.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

24

25 MR. NICK: (In Yupik) You know, all that
26 has occurred in the last 10 years to this year, you know,
27 we had a lot of things that occurred, you know, the Katie
28 John decision, the State's appeal, the question of
29 navigability, who owns navigable waters, what is now
30 navigable, and the State's contention that all waters that
31 are navigable in Federal waters or in their jurisdiction.
32 So all of this and then the Governor's on the radio and
33 speaking to groups on the topic of rural/urban divide. And
34 to me, more because of the ANILCA exist -- became --
35 looking at the rural, you know, what is the rural
36 determination, what is not rural and what is rural, I think
37 it's going to add more fuel to the topic of contention
38 between those that live in less populated area. The best
39 one, you know, the State's determination was also almost
40 considered a third, you know, non-rural in some areas --
41 some discussions, some programs. And then I guess the
42 Board -- I don't know if it was Board of Fish or Board of
43 Game made that Kenai decision that made the entire Kenai
44 area rural and I think all of this is not good, you know.
45 But I agree if there was involving from the onset through
46 the process to the end to the recommendation to the Federal
47 Board then we'll have the feeling of having input instead
48 of less feeling of being left out and told the
49 determination for what we do.

50

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1 So I agree, I think these regulations that
2 are drafted, that occur, you know, ANILCA was to protect
3 subsistence through Title VIII, and according to that
4 process there's some requirements that I do fuel confusion,
5 division and this is just another one of them.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me take that one back
8 there, go ahead, you.

9
10 MR. A. NICK: I'm Alex Nick, assistant
11 interpreter for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
12 I'd like to comment on a couple of things. One, comment --
13 the first comment I would like to make is that Bethel is
14 growing very fast and it won't be very long before it
15 reaches the population of 7,000. We're talking about only
16 a few years. My concern is that as a Native liaison who is
17 supposed to be working with the residents of the community
18 and the residents of the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta, my concern
19 is that what boundaries will city of Bethel have in the
20 future?

21
22 And my second question is, what will happen
23 to little small communities adjacent to the boundaries of
24 the city of Bethel, such as Oscarville, Napaskiak, what
25 will happen to those communities? How will we determine
26 what's rural and what's urbanized areas within the
27 boundaries of Bethel, the city of Bethel?

28
29 My concern is that, you know, those of us
30 who are responsible for providing information to these
31 communities, we need to do it now. We need to tell them,
32 this is what's going to happen instead of saying, this
33 might happen, that might happen, when it comes to Federal
34 codes of regulations. It's going to be more difficult to
35 say, well, we were going to do it this way but then it had
36 to be this way. My concern as a new resident of Bethel,
37 who has a fish camp within the boundaries of Bethel, city
38 of Bethel, corporation lands and also Native allotments, my
39 concern is that, you know, we need to start coming up with
40 some kind of solution to the problem that we will run into
41 in the future. I don't want to take too much of your time,
42 but as a Native liaison who works as an assistant
43 interpreter at the National Wildlife Refuge, based here in
44 Bethel, I get many, many calls regarding these type of
45 things, regarding what we're going to do as a Federal
46 agency, regarding what our future might look like. And as
47 an interpreter for the Refuge, I need to know -- I need to
48 have some kind of answers. And whoever is going to be
49 interpreter liaison for the Refuge in the future, that
50 person will also need to know what lies ahead in order for

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1 us to meet our obligation as Federal agency to provide what
2 we're supposed to provide, whether it's information, the
3 services that we need to provide to the community and the
4 surrounding villages.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay, go ahead.

9
10 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, one other thing. I
11 think there's real legitimate concerns about how it may
12 affect communities, these determinations. Again, this is
13 something that the Board has to do every 10 years under
14 ANILCA. I think the biggest concern that I am hearing is
15 that maybe a community that's now considered rural may lose
16 that status and be non-rural. But it could also go the
17 other way, where there are non-rural communities and they
18 may go back to being rural. And I just wanted to cite
19 Adak, for example, the Naval station there, it's lost a
20 significant amount of population over the last year, so it
21 could go either way. In other words, it's not just one way
22 that may occur.

23
24 MR. SUNDOWN: Let me throw in a third
25 option for the RAC members to consider is another
26 management option where you get a town the size of Bethel
27 that is growing proportionately and just because of its
28 sheer size and just because of its sheer volume, and this
29 is an actual concern from villages I've been feeling is
30 where you've got five or 6,000 potential users monopolizing
31 river resources such as salmon and block potential users
32 upriver of Bethel, of any resources, and what potential
33 affect that has on in making Bethel rural in determination
34 versus its size and its net effect on rivers, on villages
35 upriver of Bethel. And when you do have 5,000 residents
36 all competing for salmon, as you did this summer, the
37 people who do lose are going to be people upriver of
38 Bethel. And that is a third option that we've been hearing
39 a lot about over the course of the summer.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

42
43 MR. NICK: I just want to -- before you
44 leave, I think the concerns that are expressed on the topic
45 of these determinations, they're all important and they're
46 especially important to me because of ANCSA, Alaska Native
47 Claims Settlement Act. You know in ANCSA there was
48 acceptance of land and money was made by the people that
49 accepted, you know, signed and made a decision in exchange
50 for giving up our aboriginal -- what's called the

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1 aboriginal right to hunt and fish. And ANILCA, this
2 particular requirement and everything here that they would
3 review what is rural and non-rural, you know, and the
4 opposite of rural is urban, what is a rural and urban
5 determination, and I presume it's to hunt and fish, fish
6 and game. So my aboriginal right that I extinguished in
7 ANCSA is -- you know, the privilege to hunt that I was
8 given and entitled to under Title VIII of this section of
9 subsistence. And by this particular requirement, they
10 remind me that I gave up my aboriginal right to hunt and
11 fish -- pointing this out to me, I take this process as
12 past of administrating management of fish and game.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anymore questions from the
15 Council.

16 We'll be back at 1:00 o'clock.

17

18 (Off record)

19

20 (On record)

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good afternoon. Welcome
23 Tim Andrew.

24

25 MR. SUNDOWN: Are we prepared to start? I
26 am.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda, we're
29 down in subsistence life style art contest for Alaska
30 school children K-12.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If you
33 turn to the last page, I believe it is, last couple of
34 pages of Tab 3. Basically over the years we've had this
35 consistent artwork that's been on the front of it and other
36 regions have said, well, why don't we get different artwork
37 on the front of the reg books so we can recognize different
38 subsistence lifestyles across the state. That was approved
39 so we now have a subsistence lifestyle art contest for K
40 through 12 grade students. They can submit their artwork
41 by October 27th. Now, this is the first year so it's going
42 to take a while. But what I've heard is that there's been
43 quite a bit of artwork that's been submitted. And when the
44 Chairs, Harry, and the other nine Chairs meet, they will
45 select the winner for the next years artwork, both within
46 the book and on the cover, and this would be for wildlife,
47 this book, and for fisheries. So it's there, we're letting
48 you know and if you know of students, classes, your kids,
49 your grandkids, nephews, nieces that are artists they can
50 get involved in this. So this is a step towards getting

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1 the youth involved more in this program.

2

3 The other thing -- well, is there any
4 questions on that because I do have two housekeeping items
5 before we go to the next.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, but the deadline is
8 in two days.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. The distribution on
11 this was sent to all the villages and all the tribal
12 councils and I think we had it in the -- I'm not sure of
13 that, I'm not sure if there were ads in the paper.

14

15 MS. HILDEBRAND: It was sent to the
16 schools.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: And next year we'll have it
19 as an established process. But it is two days away,
20 correct.

21

22 Okay, the other two housekeeping items is I
23 did pass out that chart I talked about, participation of
24 your Council members in the Yukon River in-season
25 management, that's in front of you so you have it if you'd
26 like to look at it.

27

28 Ray did get a hold of Rod Simmons and we
29 have an update and Mary's not here but we'll try to remind
30 her of that, the Yukon River protocol meeting will be
31 November 28th in Anchorage. And basically what it's going
32 to do is they're going to be in the morning or the early
33 part of the meeting, there'll be a post-season discussion
34 and in-season evaluation. That will be with the Federal
35 Staff. And then in the afternoon, you'll be meeting with
36 the State members of the working group that helped draft
37 that protocol. So it's November 28th in Anchorage. So
38 with that, we'll first address Yukon, Harry does that work
39 for you the 28th, which is a Tuesday at the end -- I know
40 you have to check with the boss, I forgot.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: I forgot, sorry, I apologize
45 for that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm glad you're catching
48 on.

49

50 (Laughter)

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1 MR. MATHEWS: No, I talked to her a few
2 times on the phone and I learned real quickly who the boss
3 is. But anyway, when Mary or the Kuskokwim River people
4 come back you need to decide, who, amongst you could go
5 since you asked and we need to see if we could provide
6 funding for but it's easier if we knew of a name so we
7 could move this quicker for one of your members from the
8 Kuskokwim attending this meeting on the 28th. So if I fail
9 to do that, could one of you remember to mention that date
10 to Mary and then the Kuskokwim members decide who might be
11 available. Obviously you'd travel on the 27th, meet on the
12 28th and probably travel back on the 29th. I don't know
13 your flight schedules as well on the Delta, in the Interior
14 it's always one day before, one day after. So if it's
15 shorter than that, we'll try to work it out, if it's longer
16 we'll work that out, too.

17
18 Those are the two housekeeping items I had.
19 So whenever the Kuskokwim members come up with a name,
20 either let Robert Sundown know or myself so we can start
21 putting in that request.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's nothing, who
24 will do the next one?

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: No, that was just
27 informational for the art contest and look for it next year
28 and we would appreciate your letting people in your
29 villages and the youth know that there's opportunities for
30 them to share their artwork.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Next on our agenda
33 is subsistence wildlife issues and you'll find it under Tab
34 4.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there's
37 two parts to that. The first part is a review of last
38 years recommendations and resulting changes and the second
39 part is generating new proposals. Basically what has
40 happened here is due to the changes in Staff and everything
41 else that's going on, I cannot generate the actions that
42 happened at the last Board to share with you at this time.
43 The way I portray this to the other Councils is, is that in
44 ANILCA, Section .805(c) we talked about it when you took
45 action on a proposal yesterday, that the Board can only
46 reject your recommendation if it's in violation of -- I
47 mean it's not based on substantial evidence, that's number
48 one, if it violates recognized principals of wildlife
49 conservation or if it's detrimental to subsistence. And
50 the Board would explain to you why it rejected your

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1 recommendation.

2

3

What this program has done is each year we produce a letter listing all the proposals that you took up, summarizing your action and summarizing the Board's action. If it's in parallel, that you both agree, then we just say that, it is in agreement. When it doesn't parallel, then we explain as best we can why it didn't. That letter, the .805(c) letter, I don't have it here and it's not in your book, so we'll have to ship that to you later. I apologize for that from the program's point of view but that's where we're at right now. So we don't have the actions and how the Board reacted to it. So with that, I'll see if there's any questions on that and then we'll get that letter to you after this meeting.

16

17

It's a critical letter, I don't want to downplay it to you, that it's -- it's your report card back from Board actions and then from that you can learn to improve. So I don't want to downplay the importance of the letter but I just want to inform you that it's not here.

22

23

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions. If there's none then we'll go to the next, proposal generation.

25

26

MR. MATHEWS: Right. And I think what we'll do there, maybe lay it out here, is this is a time when Pete DeMatteo, who is here and Steve Kovach and Roger Savoy may want to come up. Remember these agenda items are just to kind of keep us on track. So right now is the time for them to come up with, if they know of any proposals that have been submitted or if they have heard of some that might be coming or they think there may need to be some written and they want you to write them or endorse them, that they come up here and discuss those. I caution you on one part, this is just discussion time, this isn't where you pass your recommendations. You can obviously ask questions about them and that, it's just a time to get an idea out there what might be coming forward, what might need to be done. And if you start getting into recommendations, then I'll probably say, wait a minute, you may want to wait until your next meeting to do that. You still can do it, but the analysis process -- basically what's happening is once this proposal -- say you decide to endorse some proposals or other groups are presenting -- send proposals into the Federal program, you'll get that book in the mail with all the proposals. That will be coming out in November or December. And from there, once this meeting ends, Pete, Laura, George, but anyways, different Staff will start analyzing those proposals, and

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1 it goes through that whole process of analysis and they'll
2 be consulting with local groups, consulting with proposal
3 authors and consulting with Refuge Staff and et cetera.
4 That will go through the whole process and then at your
5 next meeting you'll get that draft analysis just like you
6 did with the fish proposals before you. And at that time,
7 as a group, you can go through that analysis and ask
8 questions, comments, give additional information and then
9 you pass your recommendation. And then from there it goes
10 into the system, gets before the Federal Subsistence Board
11 in May. The Board then takes its action on that proposal
12 and that goes in effect in July for wildlife.

13

14 So that kind of gives you an overview of
15 how that's going. Right now you're at the beginning step
16 of it where people submit proposals and myself and Pete and
17 others think this is a valuable time for you to see
18 proposals so we can kind of get an idea of how they're
19 going and you can assist us to say that proposal on caribou
20 in a certain area would be good for you to talk to or it
21 would be good for you to look at. It helps us to do it,
22 just like you have said, face-to-face than over a phone.
23 And with that -- yeah, again, the deadline for submitting
24 proposals now, it is the 27th but let me tell you that if,
25 for some reason, that you decide to draft a proposal, I'm
26 not saying you're gong to, but if you decide you want to
27 write a proposal on wildlife, moose, caribou or whatever,
28 you get it on the record that you want to write a proposal
29 but you're not going to get the final language done, it's
30 on the record that it happened before the 27th. So we're
31 not locked into saying, oh, my God, we better write that
32 up, we can't get a hold of Harry and we can't get a hold of
33 James because they're busy with other things, the proposal
34 dies. No, that's not the case. We're not that rigid in
35 this program.

36

37 What we would do is just inform those that
38 are dealing with that deadline, Yukon/Kuskokwim Regional
39 Council is on record, they want X proposal, we need to have
40 review by whoever on that Council and it will be
41 forthcoming. So you're not -- I know this deadline is two
42 days away but it's not two days away if you guys start and
43 we don't have to finalize language today. We've done that
44 several times in the Interior. What we don't want to have
45 happen is to submit a proposal that is confusing, confuses
46 the reader, does not portray what you want to do and then
47 we went up writing analysis that doesn't really address the
48 issue. So with that I'll get off my soapbox. But that's
49 the whole process.

50

00156

1 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead, James.

4

5 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman We
6 can fax or email proposals, too, Laura gave me a card and I
7 got her numbers.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you can.

10

11 MR. CHARLES: So you can fax or email them
12 to her.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Fax or email or if it's more
15 convenient to submit them to the Refuge here. Just tell
16 them that you're submitting a proposal for the Federal
17 Subsistence Program and they'll fax it to us. Whichever is
18 more convenient to you. I always recommend when people
19 submit proposals, make sure you keep a copy. I mean we all
20 run out of paper in government but paper gets lost. So I
21 encourage anybody that submits a proposal to save a copy,
22 date it when you send it because we get a lot of proposals
23 and we haven't lost too many but it can happen. So what
24 I'm trying to say is always keep your copy, and when that
25 proposal book comes out in November or December read your
26 proposal again. We're all human, we're banging away at
27 those keys, we're thinking caribou, you had moose, we type
28 in caribou. It doesn't happen often but if you see that,
29 call us immediately and say, wait a minute, that proposal I
30 submitted was for caribou or whatever and we'll work to
31 correct that. So when it comes back or you can ask to see
32 it earlier, but definitely when it comes out in the book
33 read your proposal over. If it's not correct call one of
34 us immediately and we'll correct that. We don't want
35 people getting all engaged on a proposal that's inaccurate.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This proposal call, it's
38 only for wildlife not fish?

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. The cycle, like I
41 laid out is October/November -- well, October submit
42 proposals, analysis through to say January, then you get
43 your analysis book and I hope we get it to you two weeks
44 before your meeting. You have your meeting in February or
45 March, you have at it, look at it, and pass your
46 recommendation and then it goes to Staff Committee and from
47 the Staff Committee, which Ida serves on and others, then
48 it goes to the Federal Board in May. The fishery one, I'm
49 so new to it, I don't know if I can quickly lay it out but
50 it is twisted by six months, and at this point I don't

00157

1 think I could get all those dates together. But there's
2 two cycles going on, this is just for wildlife today. If
3 you have a fishery issue that is of an emergency nature
4 then talk to one of us on break or whatever on that. You
5 do still have that option, but you don't have the time now
6 -- it's not the call for fish proposals.

7

8 Does that confuse everybody, I hope it
9 didn't.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

12

13 MR. NICK: I have a comment to proposals in
14 general. When I came on three years ago there was a letter
15 from Emmonak o the beaver, it's a beaver proposal that
16 comes from Emmonak. And the Regional Council did not make
17 a recommendation yea or nay on the proposal waiting for the
18 State to address it. So I think this is kind of a guiding
19 principle when we discuss a proposal that comes up before
20 the Federal -- the Regional Council, I think we should
21 address their proposals because of the expectation by the
22 proposal maker that it will be addressed. I don't know
23 what explanation was given to Emmonak when the decision was
24 made not to address the proposal until the State had
25 addressed it first. I guess it was mainly to be in
26 compliance with the State regulation or State -- State
27 Board of Game.

28

29 But I think when a proposal comes before
30 us, we should address it then, not wait for the State to
31 address it. I think if we adopt a certain proposal and it
32 comes to the Federal Board then the State should follow to
33 be congruent -- or to be the same with the Federal
34 proposal. But I think I kind of want to see action on the
35 beaver proposal right away, two years ago when it first
36 came but we waited for about a year for the State to act
37 and then they finally did in Kotzebue last winter -- so
38 last spring, you know we acted on it, a year and a half,
39 almost two years.

40

41 So I just wanted to have the Regional
42 Council address and make a recommendation either way on a
43 proposal that comes to us. Do I make sense?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. NICK: Yeah.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, all the
50 schedules that I laid out verbally are in your operations

00158

1 manual so I encourage you to look at that but right now
2 you're in the beginning phase at this moment in your agenda
3 on wildlife proposals. You're at the second to the last
4 phase on fisheries proposals. And with that I think it
5 would be good to have the people that want to talk about
6 proposals up here to start that off.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. So if there's no
9 others from the Council we'll keep on going down our
10 agenda. Review of Regional Council 2000 recommendations
11 and resulting changes by the Federal Subsistence Board at
12 the May 2000 meeting.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: That's what I just told you,
15 we don't have that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. You should take
18 this whole thing and just generate Regional Council
19 proposals, did you go over that? You did already, okay.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: I did number one and
22 basically.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Number one and number two,
25 maybe both.....

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Well, yeah, it's kind of --
28 number two should actually -- let's just do number two.
29 Basically what it is is you'll be exposed to Staff from
30 Fish and Game and the Refuge on potential concerns that may
31 generate proposals.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So number two, we'll
34 request Steve Kovach and Roger Savoy for update, game
35 update.

36

37 MR. SAVOY: The first thing that I have for
38 you is -- I guess I want to make sure you have a copy of
39 the handout I passed out earlier, it starts out Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife
41 Conservation narrative for the RAC meeting in Kotlik, which
42 is what.....

43

44 MR. SUNDOWN: Roger, can you please state
45 your name.

46

47 MR. SAVOY: My name is Roger Savoy. I'm
48 the area biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game in Unit 18. And I'd like to go on with this because
50 some of it's going to give you a heads up for proposals

00159

1 that are probably coming down the road. Probably the most
2 significant management action that we conducted this year
3 was the initiation.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What was the title of
6 that?

7

8 MR. SAVOY: It starts out on the title of
9 the front page that says, Alaska Department of Fish and
10 Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation narrative for
11 the.....

12

13 MS. GREGORY: Right here.

14

15 MR. SAVOY: Did you find it, okay -- it
16 looks like everybody's set.

17

18 MS. GREGORY: You can start over.

19

20 MR. SAVOY: Sure, I will. Probably the
21 most significant management action conducted this year was
22 the initiation of a management process with the Lower
23 Kuskokwim Advisory Committee to develop a strategy to
24 increase the number of moose along the Kuskokwim. I'll
25 point out right now we don't want to do this in a vacuum.
26 The Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee happens to be
27 located real conveniently in some of the best moose habitat
28 that could really use -- really support a lot more moose
29 than what it has. And fortunately we've got members of the
30 Regional Council here who are also members, including the
31 Chair, Fritz George, of the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory
32 Committee, so I think that will help us a lot getting
33 communication back and forth for whatever kind of proposals
34 and suggestions that are generated by the Lower Kuskokwim
35 Advisory Committee. But keep in mind that we very much
36 want the Advisory Committee to be the lead conduit for
37 public involvement so that it ends up being a public
38 process. We can't afford to have just an agency process
39 with this. And it also is important that this body here be
40 part of the discussion and that the neighboring advisory
41 committee is part of the discussion. And with that in
42 mind, we also had -- Harry was at the meeting as the Chair
43 of this group and we had Robert Moore who is the Chair of
44 the Lower Yukon Advisory Committee, and we had both the
45 Chairs upriver and downriver for the Lower Advisory
46 Committee, Herbert Morgan and David O'David at that
47 meeting. Some of the seats have changed but we very much
48 want to keep all of the people involved with that so that
49 we can get a process that everybody can agree to.

50

00160

1 The Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee
2 voted unanimously to begin that process. And they took
3 time to discuss this with the villages that the members of
4 the committees represent. The next step then is to
5 continue discussions at their next meeting. Fritz and I
6 talked a little bit on the side here about when that next
7 meeting's likely to take place. So there's a time line and
8 there's some progress that's going to have to take place,
9 it's not going to be an overnight process. The next time
10 we meet we're going to discuss how some of the villages
11 received some of the ideas to put this together.

12

13 We had to give the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory
14 Committee something to work with when we presented that and
15 I delivered a presentation with the Lower Kuskokwim
16 Advisory Committee meeting to illustrate the potential for
17 moose along the Lower Kuskokwim below Kalskag and copies of
18 the overheads used there are included in this packet. So
19 if you could flip the page, I'd like to go through some of
20 the copies from that. I've got a colored copy here but
21 you've got a black and white copy in there. Kuskokwim
22 River moose, and the title of that says, moose 2000 versus
23 moose 200. We used moose 2000 simply because 2000 moose is
24 a real achievable goal for the number of moose along the
25 best moose habitat from Bethel up to Kalskag right along
26 the main part of the Kuskokwim River.

27

28 Go ahead and flip to the next page. It
29 says current moose population, which was current when I
30 made this handout. In 1993 we estimated only about 200
31 moose along the Kuskokwim River from Kalskag to Bethel. We
32 said only about 200 moose then and it's even less than that
33 now. During our last survey that we conducted in
34 January.....

35

36 MR. KOVACH: March.

37

38 MR. SAVOY: Oh, in March, excuse me. The
39 estimated number of moose in that same area was only 84
40 moose so we've got a ways to go. It's going to take a
41 while. But the potential's still there and that's why we
42 need to work on this. But we still conservatively estimate
43 that we can have about 2,000 moose in that same area.

44

45 Go ahead and flip the page to where it says
46 moose 2000 on the top. And the question arises, how do we
47 know we can get 2,000 moose in that area. What we used to
48 generate that estimate is realistic examples of areas that
49 have at least 2,000 moose that are roughly the same size
50 that have just as good of moose habitat. It's easy to

00161

1 compare the Lower Kuskokwim to the portion of the Yukon
2 River around Russian Mission. The moose habitat is very
3 similar and yet in the Russian Mission count area they have
4 close to -- well, they had over 2,000 moose the last time
5 we did an estimate. So if they can do it, we can do it is
6 kind of the idea behind that.

7

8 There are a number of other areas around
9 the Lower Kuskokwim that have good moose populations so we
10 have some examples we can follow. If you flip the page to
11 where it says lowest Yukon moose survey area there's a
12 graph there and a couple of key points. In 1988, in the
13 lowest Yukon moose survey area, which is the area from
14 Mountain Village to the coast along the Yukon River
15 drainage, in 1988 when we did a survey we didn't find a
16 single moose. But by 1994, we had crept up to about 65
17 moose there. This coming winter we're going to do a survey
18 along the entire Yukon, and I wouldn't be at all surprised
19 if we have more than that now. I think we've had pretty
20 good success down there. When you think, we didn't have
21 any '88, we're starting to get a population down there and
22 Harry could speak to that. Go ahead.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Those moose in the
25 lower Mountain Village there in the Flats, that area, they
26 don't stay, all of them in the winter. They're increasing
27 but you notice that Andreafsky, north Andreafsky are
28 increasing the moose. They're going up that way every year
29 right after mating season.

30

31 MR. SAVOY: I think you're right. I think
32 that's something that we would like to have a better
33 understanding of. I think conversations with you and other
34 people in the area probably would be real valuable for us
35 as well. So maybe we should talk on the phone or sit down
36 and talk together, sit down and have a cup of coffee from
37 our coffee cups and talk about that.

38

39 And that's a good point, too, because we do
40 our moose surveys during the winter. So when I say that we
41 have this many moose in a certain survey area we know that
42 that's a wintertime distribution, that's not always the
43 same as the moose population that we're hunting. So we
44 have to be -- managers generally get conservative when we
45 do something like that.

46

47 MR. L. WILDE: Roger, even with the
48 knowledge of those moose going over and above the river,
49 there's still a growing population of moose down below even
50 with the exiting of some of those -- the population of

00162

1 moose in that area.

2

3

MR. SAVOY: I think you're exactly right.

4 And the harvest statistics that we have, I didn't bring
5 them with me but off the top of my head, they've increased
6 year after year where we went from about seven to 12 moose
7 reported harvested and then up to 19, then 19, then into
8 the 20s, and these are bull moose that are harvested from
9 that same area, so that's exactly what's happening is we're
10 getting a moose population down there that started from
11 nothing. So it worked down there.

12

13

It was a hard effort there where there was
14 a five year moratorium which I'm sure people are pretty
15 familiar with. And it worked and moose got established.
16 And now we've got a population that we can foster.

17

18

MR. L. WILDE: So established down there,
19 they're coming and bothering the Chairman's camp.

20

21

MR. SAVOY: You know, that's great because
22 I was, in jest, before I got started with this job, I was
23 saying, you know, the problem I want is for people to call
24 me up complaining that there's too many moose. That would
25 be a much better problem than not having enough.

26

27

I'm going to go on to the next page here,
28 Andreafsky moose count area, we had a real dramatic
29 increase in the number of moose from 1995 until the survey
30 that we conducted in 1999. We went from an estimate of
31 only 52 moose all the way to an estimate of 524 moose.
32 That's a ten-fold increase in just a few years. And that's
33 -- you know, to have that kind of possibility, I think you
34 need moose growing in place, you know, cows having calves
35 and then their calves having calves but you also need moose
36 moving in from somewhere else which is an important thing
37 to consider for the Lower Kuskokwim area because we do have
38 moose adjacent to us that can move in from somewhere else.

39

40

The somewhere else that logically they
41 moved in from would be on the next page from the Paimiut
42 count area. The Paimiut count area includes the area from
43 Step River from Mountain Village all the way to the old
44 community of Paimiut, not too far from the check station
45 that we have there.

46

47

MR. KOVACH: No from Marshall's.....

48

49

MR. SAVOY: It's just below Marshall.

50

00163

1 MR. KOVACH: Right, you said Mountain.

2

3 MR. SAVOY: Oh, I'm sorry. Just upriver
4 from Pilot Station, between Pilot Station and Marshall is
5 where that count area starts. So from there up to the old
6 village of Paimiut. And in '92, the population estimate
7 was 994. And then in '98 the population estimate was 2024.
8 So we have 2000 moose in that part of the unit and the goal
9 around the Lower Kuskokwim, I think, is real achievable to
10 have 2000 moose in the Lower Kuskokwim count area.

11

12 Another example of success is on the next
13 page, the Togiak drainage example. And the Togiak drainage
14 is very different from the Lower Kuskokwim, but it's
15 similar to some of the small drainages that drain into the
16 Kuskokwim like the Kanektok drainage, the Goodnews drainage
17 or maybe the Kwethluk drainage, although the Kwethluk
18 drainage might be a little more moose than the Togiak
19 drainage. But you can see they went from -- I think the
20 first estimate there was four moose in 1991 to 509 moose in
21 1999. They've done another count that was just below 500
22 moose, but roughly 500 moose in the Togiak drainage right
23 now. And you know I think that's real achievable. I think
24 in that case, you know, we have a good opportunity because
25 there are caribou available for harvest. And there's
26 definitely, you know, a certain hardship in not taking a
27 moose when an opportunity is there for it. But if there's
28 an opportunity for something else, like caribou, you know,
29 an alternative resource, then it makes it easier to go
30 ahead and forego the opportunity for moose for the sake of
31 the long-term and still be able to keep meat on the table
32 and food in the freezer and not have such a struggle with
33 things. And I think that's what happened in Togiak, where
34 they were able to substitute caribou for moose and it made
35 it easier on the moose population so the moose were able to
36 grow in that drainage.

37

38 On the next page I've got a graph of one of
39 the count areas in the Seward Peninsula. And the point I
40 guess I want to make here is that when we say 2000 moose on
41 the Kuskokwim drainage, we're really only considering the
42 best moose habitat, right along the main part of the river.
43 Portions of Unit 18 are similar to the Seward Peninsula but
44 when we say 2000 moose we're not even counting those, you
45 know, there is more potential out there. So even in areas
46 of moderately good moose habitat we could still have a fair
47 number of moose.

48

49 Let's go ahead and look at the next page
50 over there, YK Delta moose population potentials. This is

00164

1 what we could have in the not too distant future. On the
2 lowest Yukon at a density of half a moose per square mile
3 we could have 500 to 850 moose below Mountain Village. And
4 that's, you know, half a moose per square mile, that's
5 pretty achievable.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MR. SAVOY: In Andreafsky moose count area,
10 you know, .7 to one moose per square mile gives us roughly
11 1500 to 2000 moose. And you know on the population we had
12 right now is just over 500, so we still have room to grow
13 the moose population there.

14
15 Paimiut, as good as it is, you know, over
16 2000 moose we're still not seeing negative effects on the
17 habitat up there, we could still fit more moose in there.
18 So you know, two moose per square mile is possible. That
19 would give us 2500 to 3000 moose. And then on the Lower
20 Kuskokwim about two moose per square mile, again, similar
21 to the Paimiut count area. We could get our moose 2000,
22 hopefully.

23
24 I'm going to skip this next page and then
25 come back to it. But I want to show you some of what we
26 talked about at the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee
27 meeting for the moose potential without a cow harvest. If
28 you look at the graph that we have there, on year one, we
29 have, from left to right we're representing the number of
30 cows, calves, bulls and then the number of animals that are
31 harvested every year with the assumptions being that the
32 only mortality is hunting, we get a 38 percent twinning
33 rate. We get 100 percent breeding by cows that are three
34 years old and older and we harvest half of the adult and
35 yearling bulls. So half of the bulls are harvested every
36 year. So with an example like this and if we started with
37 100 adult cows and 100 adult bulls, you can see the result
38 by year eight with this example, which is an idealistic
39 example, we understand that but it's a concept that we can
40 use to consider how moose populations grow, we could have
41 almost 1500 cows which would produce roughly 1300 calves
42 every year. We would have, you know, 700 bulls and we
43 could be harvesting 350 moose every year. If you'd
44 consider that one of our goals might be to harvest
45 somewhere in the neighborhood of 300 to 400 bulls in a
46 bulls only hunt along the Kuskokwim and then compare that
47 to the number of moose that we have right now which is 84,
48 obviously -- it's obvious to me, anyway, that that would be
49 a real benefit for people that live along the Kuskokwim to
50 have more moose.

00165

1 So that's the impetus for trying to do
2 something like this.

3
4 During the discussion, it was pretty clear
5 that one of the useful tools to try to grasp how moose
6 populations grow and to try to get people to do what they
7 can to make this work was the next page over, which is a
8 blow up of the moose circle that we've seen here in several
9 different forms now, we've got it on this paper.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MR. SAVOY: And then we've given away
14 coffee cups and, you know, take these coffee cups and
15 generate conversations with them, if you like coffee, I
16 guess.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. SAVOY: You know, I thought this was a
21 pretty good way to present this material because it's
22 intuitive. You know, you look at the moose in the middle
23 and, yeah, she has a calf and then the next year she has
24 twins and then she has a calf and a calf and then a couple
25 more calves and, you know, that's -- you say over three or
26 four years she's produced, you know, you shoot that one cow
27 moose and that's eight moose that are gone. But when you
28 look at it and you remember that the first calf, you know,
29 a few years later has her own calf and then those calves
30 have calves, you know, you end up with this big blow up of
31 moose all over the place. I think there's 214 moose on
32 this coffee cup which is about as much as you could fit on
33 a coffee cup, I think.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. SAVOY: And really, it's part of the
38 reason that we stopped at 14.

39
40 MR. KOVACH: No, it is the reason we
41 stopped at 14.

42
43 MR. SAVOY: You know if you make it any
44 bigger than that it doesn't fit on an eight and half by 11
45 sheet of paper with the programs that we have. And, you
46 know, it's possible that we've got radio collared moose
47 that continue to produce calves into their 20s. So it's
48 conservative and it's a tool to use to kind of get an idea
49 as to how, you know, how we can get to this point of having
50 more moose.

00166

1 Go ahead, Les.

2

3 MR. L. WILDE: Roger, we had one of your
4 technician up at Paimiut count every one of these fish --
5 calves -- moose because he didn't have anything to do.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. L. WILDE: But you're right, as far
10 bringing up this cup, really generates a lot of discussion
11 in the house in Hooper Bay whenever people come in, they
12 look at that and we get to talking about it. And even some
13 of those people in that area, I don't know if they're
14 seriously thinking about it but they're thinking about the
15 possibility of having a moratorium in the -- I just went up
16 that Long River -- Becharof River, yeah.

17

18 MR. SAVOY: I think those are -- that's
19 exactly what we're trying to do with this cup is to get
20 people to have conversation. In fact, from Chevak, Stan
21 Atcha talked with me and I sent him a whole case so that he
22 could give those away there. I've left some more over here
23 on the corner and, you know, if people are going to use
24 these cups to generate conversations like that, by all
25 means grab another couple of cups and go ahead and do what
26 works with them. For me, I like to put it in the microwave
27 and heat up the coffee.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. SAVOY: I'm a terrible coffee drinker
32 anyways, so.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'll tell you about a cup,
35 I take my eight years old grandson to moose hunting this
36 year and we stopped by that check point, boy, he really
37 loved that. We've been hunting and hunting for a week and
38 nothing but cows and all that, boy, he bring down with the
39 cup like this, he started telling me stories, look at that
40 -- grandpa look at that, all this moose here, is all cows?

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. SAVOY: Let me go ahead and go back a
45 few pages then, you know, what direction to take. You
46 know, where we want to be in 10 years and how do we get
47 there? And that's the question that the Lower Kuskokwim
48 Advisory Committee meeting is really working with, you
49 know, and that's what we want to do. One of the
50 suggestions that we heard, just like what Lester was

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1 saying, you know, and Robert Moore gave a good testimonial
2 for it, was something like a moratorium for moose along the
3 Kuskokwim. I don't know if that's going to be the exact
4 proposal that's going to be, you know, the method of
5 choice. It clearly has worked in at least one area but
6 there are other options and that's something that, you
7 know, we'll have to figure out which option works best.
8 But I'm sure that proposals are going to be generated that
9 this body is going to want to take a look at because of
10 this effort here. And, you know, communication between
11 this Council and the Advisory Committees and the agency
12 personnel, you know, it's got to be two ways.

13

14 I don't expect for a minute that it's going
15 to get done in a minute. You know, one year, two years,
16 five years down the road we're going to be five years older
17 anyway, you know, we might still be working on it. So it's
18 kind of a long-term approach but that's basically the
19 information that the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee had
20 to work with. And I don't know if Fritz wants to add
21 anything more to it there but that's pretty much what I had
22 for you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

25

26 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
27 think what would help is close the game management Unit 18
28 when upriver is closed. Because I've seen some hunters
29 hunting downriver or on Kalskag or Bogus Creek or Tuluksak
30 area anyway, when upriver is closed which is good for some
31 hunters but for -- if you want to keep moose population in
32 that area, I think that upriver -- when upriver is closed,
33 downriver should be closed too. Because we have too many
34 seasons in this area. State lands open September 1st or
35 Federal lands opens before that, I think it's 25th of
36 September and I think we have three seasons around this
37 area. A lot of times it's confusing to hunters, too, like
38 this fall, Robert thought Johnson River was closed when
39 upriver closed to -- he wanted me to look for his boys up
40 the Johnson River or somebody, anyway, so we look around
41 and found out that area's still open, and he thought that
42 it was closed.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. NICK: I have a few comments.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

49

50 MR. NICK: I guess when you spoke on radio

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1 KYAK, you know, as a result, you know, talked to some
2 hunters that I know that do a lot of hunting, good hunters
3 that always come back with moose and I told them about the
4 populations, you know, the decline and everything, and then
5 I had calls from other people -- I got on the radio, too,
6 myself and asking people about the low numbers and what the
7 Lower Yukon did, you know, moratorium and then I thought
8 about the Tier II thing that -- I thought to myself, you
9 know, well, there's a resident and non-resident hunters for
10 game, and if the numbers are that low on Kalskag to Bethel,
11 then they should do the pecking order. You know, close
12 non-resident hunting because they're big game, they're
13 hunting for the antlers and they're no-residents and maybe
14 they should propose to close those -- that type of harvest.
15

16 And then the other thing that I -- I know I
17 spoke with someone and there was no mention about the wolf
18 predation. Fritz and I went to the joint meeting of the
19 Western and Eastern region in February and we listened to
20 the game biologist report on the moose and low populations.
21 Moose population was declining but the wolf population
22 climbed up 30 percent in the same area, and we know about
23 Governor Tony Knowles' effort to save the moose out on
24 McKinley Park for tourism purposes, so I think all these
25 need to be considered. You know I got on the radio a
26 couple of times and talked about potential moratorium -- in
27 fact, I called a number of times to see when the Federal
28 was going to open. I thought to myself, well, if you're
29 going to ask the hunters kill moose, let's open an
30 alternative, you know, caribou. It's a red meat, you know,
31 it's in the same area. I think two days after I called,
32 kind of concerned, you know, and then I think I apologized
33 to whoever I spoke to and said, I was kind of raising my
34 voice and then the next day they opened the caribou, so I
35 thought to myself, well, maybe I should do that more often.
36

37 This summer James is correct, you know,
38 there seems to be kind of an non-alignment between the
39 Federal and the State regulation on moose in Unit 18.
40 Because the Federal regulation says it will open on
41 December 25th -- I mean August 25th, and then they did that
42 last year because of -- or two years because of fisheries
43 disaster, and I thought to myself, well, the Governor will
44 declare another fisheries disaster so I guess it's okay to
45 open early. But I got on the radio, KYAK also on VHF,
46 which everybody in the area hears on the 23rd, I believe,
47 of August and told everybody it was going to close on
48 Monday and the hunters that are planning to go out should,
49 you know, go home Sunday or Monday morning and not kill
50 anything after Monday because they'll probably be

00169

1 patrolled. And then I came down and I visited Mike's
2 office and picked up a regulation -- State regulation book
3 and also picked up a Federal regulations and I looked at
4 them, exact same locations in the Federal regulations says
5 August 25th for the exact same location the State
6 regulation said September 25th -- closed for the -- by the
7 Federal regulation and then that's when I sent my son-in-
8 law out, on the 23rd, I said go out because we haven't got
9 the issue yet, and I told him don't kill anything after
10 Monday because you might get into trouble. And when I came
11 down Friday, I picked up that booklet and I read it and I
12 read it again, for the exact same geographic area, Federal
13 regulations said September 25, the State regulation said
14 September 30th. So I called Fish and Wildlife and spoke
15 with Paul Leeberg and I read him the regulation and I asked
16 him what does it tell me. I told him I understood that
17 State regulation to state that I could still go to the same
18 area that was closed five days ago, still kill the moose
19 and be okay, and Paul read it and he said, you know, yeah.
20 So I said, well, you know, Federal Board said I could stay
21 out until the 30th, so I said well send me a memorandum, I
22 got a fax. 20 minutes later he sent me a fax saying --
23 right down exactly the same thing, open until September
24 30th. So I got on the radio again and said -- I read the
25 memorandum over the radio, said that, you know, hunters,
26 you know, the moose closure has been extended to September
27 30th. So everybody heard it. I think there needs to be
28 some alignment.

29

30 The other thing I'd like to comment on in
31 closure here, moose numbers, is the wolf predation.
32 Definitely the wolf probably has some -- there are a number
33 of moose that are killed by wolves, but in the count area
34 that I looked at when I had -- all this time I was
35 communicating with Fish and Game, I had them fax me a count
36 area and it's right along the Kuskokwim River, but at the
37 same time the count was occurring, you know, the people
38 were telling me that were going up the Kilbuk Hills,
39 Kisaralik, that the moose were bannin together. In some
40 bands there'd be 11 moose, but it's outside of the count
41 area, so I came to the conclusion, I thought, well, there's
42 enough numbers for subsistence hunters to go out and catch
43 subsistence, probably not enough to allow non-resident
44 hunting.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. GREGORY: Robert, (In Yupik).

49

50 MR. NICK: Okay. One other observation

00170

1 that I'd make in the Andreafsky and the Paimiut count, the
2 people in the tundra and all the way down the coastal area,
3 they go to the tree line to get moose. And then one big
4 difference, all this is -- you know, time again for my
5 taking -- the disturbance, I consider disturbance plus wolf
6 predation for the migration of the moose, so there's a
7 decline in certain areas but an increase in other areas,
8 like the Andreafsky. We've had a winter emergency opening
9 in the tree line area and that's where people go to catch
10 their moose in the 10 days in December -- end of December.
11 So all that traffic that's going over the hill, maybe
12 there's about 20 or 30 snowmachines, hunters. So that
13 probably drives that moose to the next river, that's the
14 Andreafsky going north, so that's the increase in
15 population.

16

17 The Paimiut area up there is soft snow.
18 I've gone there, I've gotten close to the Paimiut area but
19 I got stuck and believe me when you're riding a 400 pound
20 snowmachine with a sled behind you with a drum of gas, when
21 you get stuck and you get off your snowmachine and go that
22 deep in the snow, you won't go back to the same area, the
23 Paimiut area. That's the Refuge there, survival haven for
24 moose.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. NICK: People don't go there. And then
29 the people that went out to get their wood this winter
30 after the snow hardened up, quite a few found dead moose
31 with just the genitals and the tongue, wolves, more than
32 one. (In Yupik).

33

34 MR. SAVOY: I can go ahead and address a lot
35 of those issues that Robert's brought up. I guess the first
36 part would be regarding the non-resident moose season.
37 It's possible that somewhere along the way a proposal will
38 come along to eliminate the non-resident moose season. If
39 you were to consider something like that the -- since 1996,
40 1997, the number of non-residents hunting has -- you know,
41 it's a fairly low number, the number of successful hunters
42 in '76, '77 was zero, '78 -- or excuse me, '96/97 was zero,
43 '97/98 was three, '98/99 was three and '99/2000 was seven.
44 The total hunters for the same time periods was two, four,
45 six and 10. There's still fairly low numbers and I've
46 talked with a number of people and my impression is that
47 most of those non-resident hunters are hunting out here
48 because they have family members out here. And you know,
49 I've got a nephew who grew up in Kotlik on my wife's side
50 of the family who lives in Oregon right now, and I think

00171

1 there's a number of these individuals that are up here as
2 non-residents are hunting with family members. That's just
3 Unit 18, I'm not talking about Unit 17 or Unit 19 where
4 there's a lot more non-resident hunting, but just in the
5 Unit 18 portion. There's some. It is a low number and it
6 is something that, as far as the Department would be
7 concerned, it's an issue of allocation. And the Board of
8 Game would end up making a decision on that, we'd take no
9 position either way.

10

11 But if you wanted to consider something
12 like that, we could provide you with whatever information
13 we have about it.

14

15 Wolf numbers, it's kind of an interesting
16 thing with wolves, really. You know as moose populations
17 increase, at least, along the Yukon you're seeing more
18 wolves, some of that's normal, some of that will probably
19 always be there. I was talking with Fritz earlier, you
20 know, and when we're trying to get moose populations to
21 grow it sure is nice when there's a high wolf harvest. So
22 you know the more we could keep that up the better off we
23 are. I think in realistic fashion, you know, wolf control
24 is really spinning your wheels with a lot of effort trying
25 to get something like that to get going. And I think, you
26 know, local residents with some skill in trapping is
27 probably the best approach because we can do that, we can
28 -- and I think we have a lot of good trappers in Unit 18
29 that could focus on wolves in those situations.

30

31 But wolf numbers have increased and I think
32 a good example of that is the number of wolves that have
33 been sealed on the sealing certificates that we have. I
34 actually think most of it is related to caribou but 10
35 years ago the average wolf harvest in Unit 18, you know,
36 before caribou were showing up in any large numbers and
37 before we had this good moose population growth getting
38 going, the average harvest 10 years ago was six wolves.
39 This past year I have sealing records for 70 wolves that
40 were taken, you know, 70 wolves is a lot of wolves. That's
41 just the harvest and that's just the reported harvest. I
42 don't know what kind of percentage of the population 70
43 wolves represents, you know, did we get 80 percent of the
44 wolves that were out there or did we only get half or, you
45 know, what was it? I think that with as many people as we
46 have that are actively going after caribou and they're out
47 there and they get lucky -- I know Robert was able to catch
48 a wolf this past year during a caribou hunt.

49

50 You know, I think we have a pretty heavy

00172

1 percentage of the wolves that are out there being
2 vulnerable so we're catching quite a few wolves. But
3 that's something to keep an eye on. I just have to agree
4 with you on that, I don't know that some direction action
5 is going to take place in the next year or two, but we got
6 to keep our eyes on it undoubtedly.

7

8 I think when you suggest that moose are
9 moving, in response to pressure, I think the moose do move
10 in response to pressure. I'll just second what you said on
11 that. But I still think we're successful because we're
12 seeing increases along the Yukon in all three count areas,
13 so I'm pretty happy with the way things are going now.

14

15 And then the last thing that you mentioned
16 something about was the aligned seasons between State and
17 Federal seasons. And I think a good time to address that
18 would be with this Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee,
19 trying to come up with a strategy and with communication
20 between the Regional Advisory Council, the Lower Kuskokwim
21 Advisory Committee, if whatever action takes place, we
22 should try to coordinate our seasons so that for -- for two
23 reasons. I think if we coordinate our seasons, we're all
24 on the same page with our management strategy, and then
25 second and maybe even just as important is it's less
26 confusing for hunters. And I think there's a real value in
27 just trying to keep seasons aligned for the sake of keeping
28 the hunters, so they just don't throw the hands up and say
29 gee whiz, this is too frustrating and I'm going to do
30 whatever and get frustrated with it. I don't think that
31 does anybody any good.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thadeus.

34

35 MR. TIKIUM: I do have one question. On
36 the harvest of the moose here, the fall hunt for moose and
37 then versus the winter hunt, what is -- do you have a count
38 or a number of moose that are killed in this area?

39

40 MR. SAVOY: Yes.

41

42 MR. TIKIUM: Because it's a lot easier in
43 the wintertime to get to the hunting areas and stuff.

44

45 MR. SAVOY: It is. The winter -- the
46 harvest reporting that we get during the winter is not as
47 good, though, as our harvest reporting in the fall. And I
48 guess even our harvest reporting in the fall would be well
49 served if we could get better harvest reporting there.

50

00173

1 But in the fall -- I'm going to go with the
2 totals and start with '99/2000, that's for this -- this
3 past fall we don't have the harvest reporting through here
4 yet. But the number of successful moose hunters in Unit 18
5 who reported taking a moose in '99/2000 was 143. The year
6 before that was 125. The year before that was 118. Some
7 of that, I think, is a result of more moose, obviously, and
8 I think also some of it is a result of better harvest
9 reporting. We're trying to increase harvest reporting by
10 using a raffle. We had over \$2,000 worth of prizes last
11 year that we gave away, not just coffee cups either.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. SAVOY: But we had some license vendors
16 donate \$200 gift certificates and I matched those \$200 gift
17 certificates with purchases of my own, you know, from
18 hunting knives, gun cleaning kits, compasses, but I really
19 liked hunting knives because everybody could use a nice
20 hunting knife. You know, 20 to \$25 prizes. And then we
21 took the harvest tickets, took a box, pulled names out of a
22 hat and mailed out these prizes. So we had winners in
23 about 23 or 27 different villages and it kind of spread out
24 all over so it was -- and then the licensed vendors,
25 Swansons, AC, IDVariety, Sourdough, Anika, and Husky
26 Knives, you know, they gave us \$1,200 worth of stuff. So
27 if we could get those kind of donations and I can match it,
28 I think we can keep something like this going.

29

30 MR. TIKIUM: But you don't have a breakdown
31 of the winter kill compared to the fall kill?

32

33 MR. SAVOY: Yeah, I do have reported
34 harvest, at least, from the winter kill and I have it here
35 somewhere. Here it is. 199 -- and we can start with --
36 let's see I started with '99/2000 when I gave you the
37 numbers before so let's start at '99/2000 again. There was
38 seven moose reported in '99/2000. '98/99 was three.
39 '97/98 was zero. And '96/97 was zero.

40

41 MR. NICK: It was more than that.

42

43 MR. SAVOY: And that was for.....

44

45 MR. NICK: It's more than that.

46

47 MR. SAVOY: And clearly we know -- so it's
48 reported harvest. That's something that, you know, I don't
49 even use those numbers, you know, because Robert's first
50 reaction is the same as my first reaction, it's more than

00174

1 that.

2

3

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

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MR. NICK: Okay. That's reporting of winter kill and I can come to my IRA Council's recommendation, about a month ago -- six weeks ago, a letter was sent out from Mike Reardon, who we haven't seen in the last two RAC meetings regarding the moose population, about the decline, so my IRA Council directed to make a recommendation, draft a resolution to be sent to Federal Fish and Wildlife, to propose two things. One is to stop the non-resident killing of moose and then the other recommendation they made was to not have a winter hunt anywhere, 18, 17. And if only three in 17 is being reported to be a winter kill then from the IRA Council, to go ahead and submit that proposal. Because I sense some slight opposition from some members on the proposal recommendation that we're going to make. But I think we can do it -- it's one way to help the population go up. Because the caribou is open. The reason that we made, was that the caribou is open to March 31st and it's just right across the Kuskokwim River up in the mountains and it's red meat.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anymore questions.

MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fritz.

MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Roger, the numbers you gave earlier about the fall reporting.....

MR. SAVOY: Uh-huh.

MR. GEORGE:is it inside only Unit 18 or is it including 19?

MR. SAVOY: Those are numbers for Unit 18, only Unit 18. It stops at Kalskag on the Kuskokwim and it stops at Paimiut on the Yukon. I did an analysis once before for, I think it was the year '97/98, to kind of get an idea of how much, you know, upriver reported moose hunting there was, you know, from Unit 18 villagers. And it was a long way around to try to get that data, it came from Anchorage, up through McGrath down to me and then I had to filter out the Unit 18 residents. But it turned out that we had, instead of -- let me get to the other -- but

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1 instead of a total of 382 hunters taking 118 moose, that,
2 you know, and that's what we have reported for Unit 18, we
3 had about double that for number of reported hunters, we
4 had 738, I think was the number of Unit 18 hunters who used
5 harvest tickets, you know, and almost half of them were
6 hunting upriver behind Unit 18. And that's just reported
7 hunt. So you know, take the number of Unit 18 residents
8 and double it to get the reported harvest.

9

10 And again, I think what Robert says, even
11 in the fall hunt, reported harvest is absolute minimum
12 harvest, you know, there's other harvest that takes place
13 beyond that that we don't hear about.

14

15 MR. GEORGE: You got some more additions
16 for -- this report on last years committee meeting, after
17 the committee accepted the moose management plan for people
18 to quit killing moose, cow moose, we sort of appointed
19 Trapper John to go out to the villages and talk about it.
20 But it looks like he resigned before he started traveling.
21 We figured that there might be some funding in the office,
22 maybe a pot of gold in the Fish and Wildlife Service for
23 him to travel to the villages and talk to the Council or
24 the community members about the approval of the plan. It
25 seems like according to the newspapers, continuing -- and
26 it seems like in all the villages we're hearing that, you
27 know, we're still killing -- but somehow, you know, if we
28 can appoint somebody like maybe the RITs to go to the
29 villages to see if we can talk some sense into trying to
30 raise the moose population, maybe somehow we'll get there.

31

32 And another one is, every time I go up to
33 the mountains and go caribou hunting or whatever, right up
34 there, every moose track I see, the stripes are long and
35 they're traveling south, something's chasing them or
36 calling them that -- moose are not being killed over in the
37 Togiak Refuge and maybe that's why they're traveling that
38 way. There's no snowmachine tracks following them. I
39 wonder if it's a chopper or airplanes or whatever. No wolf
40 tracks following them but, you know, they're traveling
41 fast, they're running.

42

43 (In Yupik)

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik) Remember that
48 there was a controversy over KNA villages and moose hunters
49 and I have a list here from Sleetmute who talked about the
50 elders in Lime Village saying that the moose are going

00176

1 downriver, nobody's chasing them. And every time -- they
2 say every time you fight over something, especially food,
3 it ceases to exist in that area where you are having that
4 controversy at. And that's what's happening. This last
5 month, a lady from Sleetmute came and told me, the elder in
6 Lime Village was telling them, in that valley where Lime
7 Village is located, all the moose are going downriver.

8

9 (In Yupik)

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anymore questions to the
12 gentlemen over there. Thank you. Oops, yeah, go ahead.

13

14 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Pete DeMatteo,
15 regional wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
16 Management. Just to clarify for everyone, just to clarify
17 for everyone, Robert Nick proposes two things. The first
18 one is he'd like to see the Federal season, the end date
19 close with the State because the State closes five days
20 after the Fed. And the other thing you said, your village
21 council is thinking about submitting a proposal to
22 eliminate the winter season for moose in the Lower
23 Kuskokwim. Just for clarity I'd just like to offer to you,
24 there's the same season on the State regulations, so if the
25 Federal Board would shut down the Federal regulations, that
26 is, the 10 days season in the winter, the State season
27 would still be open. So to take care of that you'd have to
28 do dual proposals, one to the State and one to the Feds.

29

30 The Federal Board would take that up next
31 May, May of 2001. The Board of Game would take action on
32 it a year from now, late October 2001. That's the cycles,
33 they don't quite match. You need to keep that in mind.

34

35 MR. NICK: To further clarify, my local
36 tribal council's action, we tried -- as I said earlier, I
37 think this morning, we tried to have a meeting with Kasilik
38 (ph) and we have joint meetings occasionally and we're
39 trying to meet and we were supposed to have it in September
40 but because of a number of things we haven't had it, but in
41 the next two weeks it's going to occur and then the issues
42 that we request to be placed on the agenda, wolf, the
43 moose; they two proposals, and then the whitefish and
44 beaver. So those things that were not addressed last March
45 when we met. They were on the agenda but the meeting
46 adjourned before we got to them so they weren't addressed,
47 and we'll take them up and come up with draft proposals.

48

49 MR. DeMATTEO: So for the first one you're
50 going to hold off for now?

00177

1 MR. NICK: Yes.

2

3 MR. DeMATTEO: Aligning the season dates,
4 you're going to hold off for now?

5

6 MR. NICK: Yes. It will probably be in the
7 next two weeks -- maybe less.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I've been
12 bouncing around the room here, I just need to get kind of a
13 clarification here. What I understand is there's going to
14 be a planning process for the Lower Kuskokwim, is there a
15 schedule laid out for that? Okay, Mr. Chairman, what we've
16 done in other areas of the state is the Federal Subsistence
17 Board has made it clear that they would prefer to have a
18 coordinated effort with the State of Alaska with the users
19 and et cetera through a planning process. With that
20 planning process, just let the record reflect that you'll
21 have several members of this Council that also serve on the
22 Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, correct, that will be
23 involved in this planning process?

24

25 MR. SAVOY: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That would be the
28 better way to go, to get that planning process through,
29 come up with a joint plan and then we can work it through
30 the two systems. And in general, because of State
31 jurisdictions on lands it's usually best to work these out
32 first on the State side and then make adjustments on the
33 Federal. That's not always true, but in this situation it
34 appears to be that way. So I would encourage the members
35 that are on this Council that are going to be involved in
36 this planning process to keep your counterparts on your
37 Council well informed if this evolves, including the Yukon
38 member so they're aware of this when it comes back before
39 them at some point down the road, otherwise you're --
40 sometimes your work will end up diverging and then you have
41 to start over.

42

43 So I just want to make that clear on the
44 record that there will be joint -- you'll be serving dual
45 roles when you're in that planning process, one for this
46 Council's system on the Federal lands, two, for the State
47 lands and then, three, the main one that you're all here
48 for is to protect your local interests.

49

50 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, Steve Kovach. I'm

00178

1 a Refuge wildlife biologist for mammals here in Bethel. If
2 I could respond to a couple of Mr. George's comments.
3 Fritz, you're right, Trapper John did resign his position
4 prior to being able to get out and travel to villages and
5 discuss the moose issue and solicit opinions and ideas from
6 villagers on how best to approach the question of growing
7 moose along the Kuskokwim. So that did not happen last
8 winter as we had all hoped.

9
10 Mr. Reardon has discussed with me preparing
11 very detailed briefing materials for the RITs to have
12 available with them in their winter travels this year and
13 he has targeted that Trapper John's replacement, which the
14 position, I believe it's still being advertised or just
15 closed, so they're in the process of hiring that position
16 now, his replacement, that will be one of his tasks this
17 winter, will be to get out to the villages and discuss this
18 and what not. And of course, you'll be contacted, I'm sure
19 by this individual to get your input and so on.

20
21 With regards to moose tracks or obviously
22 tracks made by moose are heading south in a hurry is
23 something that I was going to discuss in the Refuge report.
24 We are seeing an increasing problem with private aircraft
25 harassing animals out here. That's not to say that was the
26 cause of those tracks that you saw, you know, it could
27 happen for a number of reasons. I've watched animals from
28 the hillside just with my binoculars for no apparent reason
29 they get up and run a mile or so and then stop. I don't
30 know why they did it, but it certainly wasn't me, wasn't
31 anything I could see. It does happen. I don't know why.
32 I'm sure the animal knows but he's not telling us that's
33 for darn sure. It could be aircraft but we just don't know
34 and what not. And I've seen tracks going both directions,
35 both south and north, so take your pick on which ones you
36 come across, I guess.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anymore questions from the
39 Council. Ida.

40
41 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ida
42 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. Just a request to
43 the Council members who are also a part of the AC and to
44 Roger?

45
46 MR. SAVOY: Yes.

47
48 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay. That you send a
49 summary of your plans to the Coordinator for this Council
50 so that it can be distributed to the Council members and it

00179

1 would be a smoother transaction.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fritz.

4

5 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. I don't know if my
6 statement is going to be a joke or something, but anyways,
7 the moose that have gone over to Togiak Refuge, they were
8 from 18. You guys should go get them.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Yeah, go ahead.

13

14 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, one more item.
15 At your Nunapitchuk meeting last March, Mary Gregory asked
16 Staff to take a look at the Federal and State regulations
17 for big game and see where the Federal regulations are more
18 restrictive than the State. You already pointed out that
19 the moose season down on the Lower Kuskokwim shuts down
20 five days before the State season but it opens up seven
21 days earlier so it's not more restrictive, it's just a
22 difference in closing dates. I looked at all the other
23 regulations and they're either the same or the Federal
24 regulations are more liberal.

25

26 So there's your report on that.

27

28 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. On the agenda,
31 other wildlife issues, we will ask Greg Rositchka(*), BOG
32 update.

33

34 MR. ROSITCHKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 For the record my name is Greg Rositchka. I serve as a
36 member on the State Board of Game. I've been here since
37 1996, appointed to my second term by our current Governor
38 back in 1999.

39

40 I submitted a handout here for a proposal
41 that the Board is going to be taking up. We'll be having
42 our fall meeting in Juneau starting November 1 through the
43 12th. We have a proposal that was deferred from our winter
44 meeting, winter 2000 meeting, requesting a customary and
45 traditional use finding for furbearers statewide. We had a
46 fairly limited amount of input with regards to that
47 proposal and a fairly large level of concern from those
48 that did respond so the Board put it back out to give
49 people another opportunity to take a longer look at it.

50

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1 On its face, you know, I don't think anyone
2 can deny it and certainly the Board didn't feel that way
3 that anyone can deny that there is certainly a customary
4 and traditional use of furbearers. It's probably got one
5 of the longest histories of use. Where we did run into the
6 difficulties is should the Board make that finding if it
7 could end up creating some kind of complications in its
8 implementation under the law. Being that furbearers are
9 kind of a different -- a whole different management
10 structure, if you will, than, you know, moose or caribou or
11 any other animals that are hunted for food in the general
12 population. Their numbers fluctuate to a much greater
13 degree in their population cycles over the years. So the
14 concern is that, you know, we might end up -- well, it took
15 to us, it's not broken why are we trying to fix it. Or to
16 put it a little more simpler, it's not broken why do you
17 want to try to break it?

18
19 So anyway, I wanted to get your input and
20 feedback on how you might feel the Board should address
21 this or alternatives. We don't have to take any action on
22 it. Leave it out there right now, essentially it's an open
23 hole in the regulations that will not be addressed one way
24 or the other. The Attorney General's office is very
25 interested in closing any kind of loopholes so that was
26 kind of the impetus behind having the Board address it and
27 where the proposal came from. But anything you could offer
28 me along those lines I will be -- I've spoken with AVCP and
29 I've requested from regional organizations across the state
30 to provide input as well to the Board and I haven't gotten
31 any response from anyone. So I would like to have
32 something to bring to the Board and if you guys have
33 anything you could offer.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council.

36
37 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

40
41 MR. NICK: Greg, speaking for my village
42 only, the ones that I know that do trapping still, and will
43 be trapping here in about one week, a week in a half, they
44 still do trap for the mink and the beaver, the otter, the
45 muskrat, fox; those are the area. And the beaver, the
46 otter, mink and muskrat, they do for the subsistence -- for
47 family subsistence at the moment because there's no -- to
48 the fur -- fur market. But I can -- we're meeting on
49 Friday, you know, try to meet in -- we try to meet every
50 other week and I can bring it up in our meeting that we

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1 have this opportunity to write a letter with some comments
2 by elders, those families that I know who still use the
3 rats, you know, that's what we call it also for food, is
4 the mink and otter are still a delicacy for us, the
5 muskrat, too. Because they are -- people from my village
6 are still using, so I think we can -- I don't know what the
7 process would be. In the past we just take some
8 discussion, some input from staff and then public comment
9 to determine C&T, but speaking for myself and the village,
10 we do use them. But I think for us to provide you with
11 information for the November meeting, we may not have it in
12 the form that is usually used by the Board of Game
13 proposals, the time period, the public comment period, you
14 know, all that process.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Les.

17

18 MR. L. WILDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I could
19 see some problem in trying to find customary and
20 traditional use findings for all the items listed -- or all
21 the species listed. And there was a suggestion or a
22 consideration that customary and traditional use findings
23 over a number of years on species by species would probably
24 work a lot better than trying to take an overall position
25 that these are customary uses. Because in my area there's
26 -- we can't really say that Chevak has customary or Scammon
27 has customary traditional use of these species because they
28 don't even know what half of these things are. So I think
29 it would be better if you took them, from a number of
30 years, species by species and area by area.

31

32 MR. ROSITCHKA: Okay, I appreciate that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

35

36 MR. NICK: Along the line of using the
37 byproducts of sea mammals for arts and crafts, this
38 probably could be a separation but C&T could be, you know,
39 for subsistence, you know, human consumption, for using of
40 the byproducts for arts and crafts. And I think all the
41 others, you know, we -- the ladies still use them to make
42 little dolls or fur clothing. And wolf and wolverine is
43 still a prized possession to many ladies because of the
44 ruff on parkas and the wolverine for.....

45

46 MS. GREGORY: And we use the legs for
47 mukluks and stuff.

48

49 MR. NICK: So I agree with Lester, that we
50 -- rather than taking up all of the furbearing animals all

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1 at once, when we need to make a C&T determination, if we
2 can provide them animal by animal or species by species,
3 they're all animals.

4

5 MR. ROSITCHKA: Okay, if I'm hearing you correctly
6 that what Lester was mentioning, that it would be better on
7 a region by region basis, specific areas.

8

9 MR. NICK: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think it's very
12 important when you present these furbearers; in the Yukon
13 itself, in my village, even though the fur is not --
14 because the cost is so low, they still use them for parkas
15 and all that and even like they use it in school training,
16 children -- school children, some of them they teach --
17 learning how to make parkas and also other things.

18

19 MS. GREGORY: I have a comment to make to
20 Greg.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

23

24 MS. GREGORY: I'm from the coast. And
25 along the costal areas, the main iron food, mineral that
26 Native people use are the small mammals, like the mink, the
27 otter and the muskrats. And so they're still using it as a
28 red meat. And I really like to eat meat. I grew up on
29 small mammals because we don't have no big game. No trees
30 down there, you can see for miles, and it's still being
31 practiced today. And I've lived in Bethel 45 years but I
32 crave for my food still. So my brother and my cousins
33 provide me with the meat and they use the skins for their
34 own parka and stuff.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

37

38 MR. NICK: Just because sometimes, for
39 health -- why I said, you know, that muskrat and mink is a
40 delicacy for us. A number of years back, not too far back,
41 last five years maybe, six years, in a Russian Orthodox
42 celebration in Kasigluk, they were serving -- having a
43 feast and what they had was muskrat, it's a rat. So they
44 had semi-dried muskrat because they were eating -- there
45 was this one guy -- one guy from -- in fact he's from
46 originally Kasigluk so he wanted to make an impression so
47 he ate what everybody ate and he enjoyed the muskrat. And
48 he -- and so we gave him a second serving on the plate, so
49 when he got done, he asked the host, the owner of the
50 house, he said, the food is really good, you know, it was

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1 nice and he asked him, you know, what is it, and the lady
2 told him that he just had a rat.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. NICK: His expression changed from -- I
7 guess he was smiling and then his face dropped and he had
8 kind of a pained look and he asked if he could be excused.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. NICK: I guess one could imagine what
13 happened after that. But it is customary and traditional
14 subsistence food.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anymore from the Council.
17 Questions to Greg.

18

19 MR. ROSITCHKA: If you got anything else
20 regarding Board of Game I could attempt to answer those as
21 well.

22

23 One point I did want to make, it was
24 mentioned by Pete, I believe earlier, on the Board's
25 proposal schedule. We deal with every area of the state
26 every other year, every two years. Each area of the state
27 gets reviewed with its regulations and it is made open for
28 proposals from the public and so on, so the next time in
29 the cycle when the AYK region is up is for the fall 2001
30 meeting and deadline for proposals there is generally
31 around the first part of August. However, if this group,
32 you know, finds at that point in time that they're not
33 ready to submit a proposal to the Board there's certainly
34 the option of putting it in out of cycle under an agenda
35 change request. And the Board, as it sits right now, as a
36 general rule, looks very favorably on community efforts or,
37 you know, has a broad amount of public participation from
38 the user groups. So I think you'd have a good chance of
39 having it reviewed -- or having it accepted at another
40 meeting, even if it isn't within the existing cycle.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Al.

43

44 MR. A. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 Alex Nick from Yukon Delta Refuge. One of the growing
46 questions that we receive, I don't know if the Refuge
47 managers or biologists receives the same kind of calls that
48 I receive over the summer and fall and winter, one of the
49 growing questions that villagers ask is whether or not if
50 it would be possible to harvest a closed big game or small

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1 game specie for funeral purposes. I think that's one of
2 the things that has been overlooked by the regulatory -- or
3 regulation -- or the Board of Game or Board of Fisheries,
4 whatever, or the Refuge managers or game managers, that, I
5 think in YK-Delta, if I remember correctly, as a young
6 child, I used to see people harvesting big game and small
7 game when there's death in the village and there's a big
8 feast going on. The only people nowadays that carry that
9 out is the Athabaskan people and other people that are from
10 other places. I think what I would like to see as a Native
11 liaison that tries to answer or refer these questions to
12 appropriate people is to see what is going to be done about
13 that.

14

15 MR. ROSITCHKA: Mr. Chairman, I could
16 answer his question or Roger can say it for me, but that
17 whole issue is one of the first things I dealt with on the
18 Board as a proposal back in 1997 and the Board of Game did
19 put that into regulation on a statewide basis and it's a
20 matter of simply contacting Roger and that can be -- that
21 is already on the books as a regulation to recognize that.

22

23 MR. SAVOY: The regulation says that for a
24 Native Alaskan mortuary or funerary -- let's see a
25 customary and traditional Native Alaska mortuary or
26 funerary service, basically what just -- just exactly what
27 Alex is talking about, if there was a funeral potlatch is
28 the way it came down from other regulations. But last year
29 we gave permits for, it was either three or four different
30 potlatch moose where people contacted me, I discussed with
31 them what the regulation was, I gave them a letter and I
32 gave them a copy of the regulation so that when they were
33 out hunting they would feel like they have some kind of
34 confidence that they're not going to get nailed for hunting
35 illegally. The other thing I would do since people had
36 contacted me earlier is I would send an email to the
37 protection officer so that they knew something was taking
38 place in a certain area. There's also some discretion in
39 that law where it needs to be under -- as long as it's
40 within sustained yield principals. And when I talked with
41 folks, I say let's try to take a bull on the Yukon because
42 that's the area where we have a moose that we could
43 occasionally afford under sustained yield principals. It
44 would be difficult to justify that on the Kuskokwim where
45 there's only 84 moose. But in the areas where the moose
46 populations are doing well, I think we're well within the
47 regulation for that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, I recognize Robert,
50 you know at home the people been trying to get that -- made

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1 for customary and traditional thing and it seems to me that
2 no one ever responded to them so this time I'm going to
3 give them cup and show them this from there.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. NICK: I just wanted to pass on what I
8 thought I knew, you know, that they can do it. That's how
9 I understood the regulation. But because of low numbers I
10 haven't really been broadcasting that they can do it. But
11 I know they can.

12

13 So coming back to the communication issue
14 between Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife, when Fish and
15 Game or Fish and Wildlife is unsure of a certain regulation
16 maybe they should contact Fish and Game, and Fish and Game
17 do the same thing, contact Fish and Wildlife. But in this
18 issue, that is, I guess, it is providing fresh fish or meat
19 in a funeral, you know, because it is our custom as far
20 back as I can remember that when a family member dies that
21 after the service we invite everybody to meet and we always
22 want to provide the best food there is, you know, and what
23 is better than fresh meat or fresh fish, so it can be done.
24 That's how I understood it.

25

26 So if the Federal regulations also had that
27 State regulation in their text, jointly signed, maybe Alex
28 would have an adequate response to pass on in these
29 questions. And then Harry also would be able to, you know,
30 tell people that might want to pass, you know, if there's a
31 regulation in the books that says they can do it. As I
32 said before, I think the numbers are there because the
33 count area is confined to a certain location but beyond
34 that count area are numbers -- there's more than 84, is
35 what I'm saying, the banks of the Kuskokwim.

36

37 MR. ROSITCHKA: An observation, if I may,
38 Mr. Chairman, on the point that you raised there as far as
39 the communications between the State and Federal managers,
40 the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta, in my experience is light years
41 ahead of most every other area in the state where people
42 are still -- it's a jurisdictional conflict almost and this
43 area of the state is far ahead of most others in working
44 together, the State and Federal management entities.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Anyone here.
47 Questions. Mary.

48

49 MS. GREGORY: No, no questions.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary, wants to take a

6 break so we'll take 10 minutes.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll get into our reports

13 and we'll move some of that need to be -- some of them are

14 going 3:30, 3:30. We try to take care of some of those

15 people that need to depart before that time. If we're kind

16 of a little bit faster in doing the report, we're aiming

17 for 5:00 o'clock or 4:30, 5:00 o'clock anyway. Some of us,

18 if we don't quit by 5:00 o'clock then we are not able to go

19 home. And also some of the Staff and some of the

20 employees, they want to travel by 3:30 or 4:00 o'clock or

21 whatever. So I would like to know who is the person -- put

22 up your hand. Yeah, Jill, you're going.

23

24 MS. KLEIN: Yeah, the 3:15 flight.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You see that we did start

27 out with a quorum so we're here and go ahead I'll give you

28 that opportunity. You're going to go right now?

29

30 MR. NICK: I'll wait until you get a

31 quorum.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, we're still quorum,

34 even if you go we still have a quorum.

35

36 MR. NICK: Okay, I'll be right back.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think it's better for

39 you to go.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. NICK: Okay, thank you.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just one real

46 quick housekeeping thing.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: There was a question asked

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1 before the break about Federal regulations dealing with
2 funerary potlatches and that and we do have similar
3 regulations on the record for Federal regulations so I just
4 was silent on that because of the fact that your needs
5 would be addressed under State regulations at that time.
6 But we do have the same regulations, generally speaking.

7

8 MR. NICK: Do you have the reference?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: I don't have that with me and
11 I'd have to -- it would be in the final rule, the
12 regulation book I'm looking at I can't seem to find it in
13 there but it is in the final rule, subpart B. I couldn't
14 find it in there but anyway we do have regulations.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: At this time we're going
17 to suspend the rules and we're going to just take the ones
18 that have to go right away, and we'll have to do it by
19 motion to approve. (In Yupik)

20

21 MR. OWELTUCK: I make a motion.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the
24 floor to suspend the rules and take care of the ones that
25 want to go right away. Is there a second.

26

27 MR. CHARLES: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second the motion. Okay,
30 all those in favor say aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carries. Okay,
39 we'll start with the reports, people, the ones who are
40 planning to travel right now, I think is Jill -- Jill Klein
41 is one of them.

42

43 MR. SUNDOWN: Take a few and then pass them
44 on down.

45

46 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chairman and Council, my
47 name is Jill Klein with Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
48 Association. I just wanted to briefly report on the
49 habitat restoration projects that YRDFA had done this past
50 summer. There were three main projects that were done and

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1 the first one was to place in Minook Creek, which is near
2 Rampart, the second one took place in Birch Creek which is
3 near the Steese Highway and the third project was in Ruby
4 Creek. These projects were to do initial surveys to
5 improve access to spawning and rearing areas that had been
6 damaged by previous mining activity. They were sampling
7 for juvenile and adult chinook and looking at the stream
8 channel, the stream banks, and the flood plane.

9

10 The results from Minook Creek were that
11 there were no juvenile or adult chinook found there and
12 that it's probably just a marginal tributary and especially
13 during these times when the runs were depressed there are
14 no chinook found there.

15

16 Birch Creek had results of finding 19
17 juvenile chinook there which is a good sign.

18

19 And in Ruby Creek there was a permanent
20 channel diversion that was made and so juvenile chinook
21 could now access an additional 2.5 stream miles of rearing
22 habitat.

23

24 Those were all projects funded by National
25 Marine Fisheries Service and Bering Seas Fishermen's
26 Association.

27

28 And then I wanted to go over, which is what
29 I just handed out to you, and I can pass out to people, if
30 you could get that. These were to project proposals that
31 were submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board by YRDFA,
32 and they have been accepted in the pre-proposal stage and
33 we're going to be working on the implementation plans for
34 further -- to submit again and hopefully get approved.

35

36 The first project is titled coho salmon
37 distribution surveys. And this project is to look at the
38 distribution abundance and life history of coho salmon in
39 smaller streams as coho are one of the four major salmon
40 species found in the Yukon. It has the least amount of
41 data that has been collected out of any of the four salmon
42 species. So I wanted to ask for input from the Advisory
43 Council on what streams should be surveyed for coho salmon
44 distribution. And if you know of any streams now that you
45 could tell me about or we could contact you in the future
46 to find out about what areas that people think, coho
47 salmon.

48

49 MR. CHARLES: You mean on the Kuskokwim
50 side or on both rivers?

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1 MS. KLEIN: Just on the Yukon.

2

3 MR. CHARLES: Just on the Yukon.

4

5 MS. KLEIN: Yes. And there have been
6 consultations that have already been done so far with Fish
7 and Game and NMFS some Fish and Wildlife Service. So there
8 are, in the project description area, on the page there are
9 already some creeks and rivers that are mentioned.

10

11 The Grayling River, Kaltag Creek up to
12 Tozitna River including the Koyukuk River drainage, from
13 Hess Creek up to Fort Yukon, including the Porcupine River
14 drainage. Those seem to be the main areas that we have
15 found out about from those previous consultations. But if
16 there are other areas that people know about we would like
17 to include those.

18

19 MR. OWELTUCK: You got the Cheramik River.

20

21 MS. KLEIN: Excuse me.

22

23 MR. OWELTUCK: On the Lower part of the
24 Yukon, the Cheramik River, it's not on there, it's on the
25 lower part of the Yukon.

26

27 MS. KLEIN: I'm sorry, I didn't understand
28 your comment.

29

30 MR. OWELTUCK: You know the tributaries
31 that go up below Marshall?

32

33 MS. KLEIN: Uh-huh.

34

35 MR. OWELTUCK: There's one.....

36

37 MR. SUNDOWN: Oh, Cheramik.

38

39 MR. OWELTUCK: Cheramik, yeah.

40

41 MS. KLEIN: So do you recommend that as an
42 area?

43

44 MR. OWELTUCK: Yeah.

45

46 MR. SUNDOWN: Just for the RAC members
47 information, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is planning
48 on putting a weir on that river in the summer of 2002, I
49 believe, and Dave Cannon might be able to give you more
50 information on that. But just so that they don't have

00190

1 redundant proposals.

2

3 MS. KLEIN: What was the name of that river
4 again, if you could spell it? How would I spell that?

5

6 MR. CANNON: Atchuelinguk.

7

8 MS. KLEIN: Okay, thank you.

9

10 MR. SUNDOWN: Can you clarify for RAC
11 member Oweltuck, what your plans for that river is?

12

13 MR. CANNON: My name is Dave Cannon and I'm
14 the fisheries biologist for the Refuge. And we went out
15 this fall and looked on the Atchuelinguk for potential weir
16 sites and that proposal was submitted here recently but did
17 not make the cut as far as potential projects for next year
18 but we will be looking at doing something in the future on
19 that river.

20

21 MR. L. WILDE: I have one question, Jill.

22

23 MS. KLEIN: Uh-huh.

24

25 MR. L. WILDE: I'm sorry, I came in a
26 little bit late during your discussion. But we've noticed
27 that there are salmon down in the Hooper Bay area that
28 aren't going up to the Yukon River, and we're suspecting
29 that they might be going up through the Atchuelinguk River
30 and spawning possibly up in the areas of the volcanoes.

31

32 MS. KLEIN: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. L. WILDE: Or, either that or going up
35 through Cashunak into the Yukon, we don't know for sure.
36 But would you need a proposal for a study in that area or
37 what exactly are you getting into? As I said, I apologize
38 for coming in a little bit late.

39

40 MS. KLEIN: I was just talking about this
41 coho salmon distribution survey.

42

43 MR. L. WILDE: There are cohos in those
44 lakes.

45

46 MS. KLEIN: There are cohos?

47

48 MR. L. WILDE: Uh-huh.

49

50 MS. KLEIN: So that is an area that could

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1 be included into this project description.

2

3 MR. L. WILDE: Right. In the Cashunak
4 River there are spawns -- ready to spawn cohos in the
5 lakes, I've seen them.

6

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And some chums, too.

8

9 MR. L. WILDE: (In Yupik). My friend from
10 Chevak over there, he knows an area, chum also go up in
11 that area.

12

13 MS. KLEIN: And what's the name of.....

14

15 MR. L. WILDE: Chum. Cashunak. If you
16 want to know how to spell it, ask the interpreter back
17 there, he knows how to spell it.

18

19 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Wilde, I know
20 that Jude Hansler has been up in that area about a decade
21 ago looking for fish as well with the Lajopaniak. Joe also
22 took me up in the volcano cones area, I think about nine
23 years ago to look. So there has been some work and I guess
24 just a comment for Jill and others that are interested in
25 that it would probably be good to look at those earlier
26 pieces of information, for Jill to talk to Jude about it,
27 but definitely something to think about and look at because
28 we don't know much about it.

29

30 MR. L. WILDE: Like take for instance this
31 fall, there was no reports of cohos going into the Yukon
32 River and there was an abundance of cohos in the Hooper Bay
33 area that never made it into the Yukon River. Possibly a
34 test net in that area or something of that nature to get
35 something started would be something to think about.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ida.

38

39 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. In reference
41 to your question, Lester, what Jill is asking for is
42 recommendations on where the YRFDA projects that are
43 studying where coho may spawn, what are the rivers this
44 Council would recommend for them to look at.

45

46 MR. L. WILDE: I would recommend that there
47 be a study of some sort going into the Cashunak just to see
48 there actually is cohos going up in that area.

49

50 MS. KLEIN: Okay. Thank you, I've noted

00192

1 it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jill, may I ask you a
4 question. This year with dollars and amount, are these
5 approved by the Board of Yukon Drainage Fishermen's
6 Association?

7

8 MS. KLEIN: These proposals?

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

11

12 MS. KLEIN: I know that all -- there were
13 six proposals in total submitted by YRFDA to the Federal
14 Subsistence Board and I think that they were sent out to
15 the Board members for their knowledge of the projects.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think it's very
18 important to make sure that Board members come first before
19 they present anything like this.

20

21 MS. KLEIN: Can I ask you, Mr. Chair, did
22 you receive these Federal Subsistence Board proposals; were
23 they sent out to you from YRFDA previously?

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I didn't quite understand
26 you.

27

28 MS. KLEIN: Did you receive.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: These here?

31

32 MS. KLEIN:any of these previously to
33 this date?

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.

36

37 MS. KLEIN: No, you haven't seen them,
38 okay.

39

40 MR. L. WILDE: I have.

41

42 MS. KLEIN: You have, okay. Are there any
43 further questions on the coho distribution survey?

44

45 Okay, the second project is entitled Yukon
46 River salmon traditional and ecological knowledge. And
47 this is a project proposal that is going to utilize
48 traditional and ecological knowledge to improve the
49 management of salmon resources on the Yukon River, and to
50 try to find out information on the high and low levels of

00193

1 fish abundance. And the idea is to collect traditional and
2 ecological knowledge from Yukon residents at the YRFDA
3 annual meeting, which has taken place over the past 10
4 years. It's a four day meeting, where people from up and
5 down the Yukon River come together and it seems like it
6 would be an ideal location for YRFDA to survey the people
7 on their knowledge. This spring it will be in Holy Cross.
8 And we would like to look at the historical patterns in
9 salmon abundance and scarcity and also to look at
10 traditional reasonings for -- not reasonings but
11 traditional measures of conservation and solutions to when
12 there are more scarce times in the salmon resource. The
13 outcome of this project is to have a detailed written
14 report and to also make a video -- to videotape the surveys
15 and to have it in video format at the end.

16

17 And so we'd like to ask the RAC, Council
18 members about elders or key fishermen or people that would
19 be good to survey so that, ahead of time, we can start
20 preparing for the YRFDA meeting. And if there were people
21 that may or may not be attending the YRFDA meeting, how we
22 can also get in touch with those people, where they're from
23 and their names.

24

25 Any questions at all about this project.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

28

29 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
30 Rivard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of
31 Subsistence Management out of Anchorage. These two
32 projects that Jill has just presented to the Board here,
33 the status of them as far as funding goes from our office,
34 Fisheries Information Service, is that they have been
35 advanced with modification. In other words, they still --
36 they made the initial cut for being funded but our office
37 is asking YRFDA for further details and maybe fleshing out
38 or modifying their proposal. So there's -- these are not a
39 done deal yet.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Which Board were you
42 talking about?

43

44 MR. RIVARD: Pardon.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: When you mentioned the
47 Board here.

48

49 MS. KLEIN: The Federal Subsistence Board.

50

00194

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: The Council.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Were you talking about the
4 Council?

5

6 MR. RIVARD: Did I say Board? Well,
7 there's.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think I want
10 clarification because it confuses me sometimes, people call
11 us the Board, we're not the Board, we're.....

12

13 MR. RIVARD: If I said Board.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE:the Advisory Council.

16

17 MR. RIVARD:I made a mistake, yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ida, will you make a
20 correction or something?

21

22 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. What Don is
24 referring to is this morning in your books he went through
25 that list of process of how fisheries projects, study
26 projects would go. There was a time for application and
27 the pre-proposal. YRFDA submitted a pre-proposal. The
28 Fisheries Information Services looked at 217 proposals and
29 I'm on that committee, and on some of them we said, okay,
30 we want you to give us more information on this proposal
31 because we're going to consider funding it. This isn't a
32 decision to fund but we want more information and then
33 we'll decide if we're going to fund it, and that's what --
34 they got back to YRFDA and that's what Jill is asking for.
35 Asking you for information so she can add it to their
36 proposal. And all these projects, before they're finally
37 approved, when they deal with this region, will have to
38 come back to this Council for approval. They won't be
39 funded before this Council approves of them and it's
40 recommended to the Board, the Federal Subsistence Board.
41 So it's still in the process. It's after the pre-proposals
42 and going into the information -- requesting more
43 information for the main proposal.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

46

47 MS. KLEIN: So my question with the
48 traditional and ecological knowledge project is that YRFDA
49 would like to find out about key people that we can survey
50 for traditional and ecological knowledge on the scarcity

00195

1 and abundance of the salmon runs and traditional
2 conservation measures that have been taken in the past or
3 if there are any. So if the Council knows of any people
4 that you suggest or any ideas for this proposal, we would
5 like to solicit your input on it.

6
7 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik)

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, this is just for the
10 Yukon River.

11
12 MS. KLEIN: Yeah, it's just for the Yukon.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I am really having a
15 problem with your proposals right now.

16
17 MS. KLEIN: Okay.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Because there's only three
20 of us and a lot of people don't know these things, that's
21 the main thing. I think in order to get something people
22 have to know, even the rest of the Board members, they
23 don't know nothing about some of these here.

24
25 MR. L. WILDE: I think some of this --
26 Harry, some of these were taken in meetings where you
27 didn't attend. That this TEK thing came up some -- I think
28 in the Fort Yukon meeting.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I didn't have a meeting in
31 Fort Yukon, I don't know nothing about it.

32
33 MS. KLEIN: Okay.

34
35 MR. L. WILDE: So it might be a good idea,
36 Jill, if we went back and -- since it concerns the Yukon,
37 at our next teleconference.....

38
39 MS. KLEIN: Uh-huh.

40
41 MR. L. WILDE:that these be brought
42 up and you'll probably get more response from YRFDA members
43 than you would from the RAC members. Unless the RAC
44 members would like to participate in it.

45
46 MR. TIKIUM: Mr. Chairman, on some of these
47 handouts we're getting right now, you know, I don't know
48 how long ago they prepared them but, you know, handing them
49 to us at the last minute, you know, it makes it a little
50 confusing and they want an answer right now. I'd

00196

1 appreciate it if you guys get them done ahead of time, at
2 least, give us copies.

3

4 MS. KLEIN: Okay, well, I apologize for the
5 short notice.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ida.

8

9 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. This morning
11 in our discussions on what a pre-proposal does, in the
12 section, if you would flip back to Tab 3 on those pre-
13 proposals in the end there, there's a section in the middle
14 of those pre-proposals that asks for community
15 consultation. And that's what I was talking about, before
16 a proposal can really be fully accepted, they have to
17 involve the local people that are going to be impacted by
18 the proposal. And part of what Jill is doing is informing
19 you that they have submitted this and asking you to respond
20 but you don't have to respond today because you've just
21 seen it today, but when you go home, to start letting your
22 people know that this proposal is out there, do they agree
23 with it and if they agree with it, what rivers or streams
24 are they going to recommend or who are they going to
25 recommend to be involved for the traditional knowledge that
26 this is supposed to be studying.

27

28 MR. L. WILDE: So it's just a matter of
29 misunderstanding on the part of the two -- like our young
30 lady there, Jill.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MS. KLEIN: What was that?

35

36 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me. I don't
37 believe it's quite a misunderstanding. I think it's a new
38 process.

39

40 MR. L. WILDE: It's a new process and it's
41 misunderstood.

42

43 MS. HILDEBRAND: We just started fisheries
44 -- right, and again it's a communications problems.

45

46 MR. L. WILDE: Yes, ma'am.

47

48 MS. HILDEBRAND: And the communication is
49 before this was submitted, Harry had a concern that it
50 wasn't first submitted to the YRFDA Board, that's one

00197

1 problem, the other problem is that the people that will be
2 impacted weren't contacted before this notice today.

3

4 MR. L. WILDE: And is the reason why this
5 information wasn't sent out, is because you just got this
6 returned and was not -- you weren't able to get it out
7 prior to this time? Is that the reason why this is being
8 presented here?

9

10 MS. KLEIN: Yes. We submitted it to the
11 Subsistence Board, we received it back about a week to two
12 weeks ago, with these, as Ida mentioned and Don mentioned,
13 they were accepted with modifications. So we're -- we
14 wanted to take this out and to let the RAC know about these
15 proposals because there are modifications that need to be
16 made to them before they can be resubmitted and then we
17 need to make an implementation plan and we want to get
18 input from people that would be involved in these
19 projects.....

20

21 MR. L. WILDE: That's a good practice?

22

23 MS. KLEIN:beforehand.

24

25 MS. HILDEBRAND: The ideal practice,
26 however, is if somebody wants to put in a proposal, when
27 they get the idea of the proposal, that's when they should
28 contact the local people and say, I have this idea, do you
29 agree with it and it would be much smoother if it happened
30 that way. Unfortunately, many proposals were submitted
31 before local people were contacted.

32

33 MS. KLEIN: Right. Because there is an
34 area that it does say, consultations completed, and
35 basically right now I'm doing some consulating for these
36 proposals, consultation.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jill, are you looking for
39 us to support these here or what?

40

41 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik)

42

43 MS. KLEIN: No, we don't need the support
44 like you went over the proposals yesterday. We don't need
45 it supported in that sense but we would like to -- we're
46 looking for input to help write these proposals so that
47 they will be more successful with the knowledge that people
48 from the RAC members or local people from the Yukon River
49 can help make this a more successful project.

50

00198

1 MR. L. WILDE: So it's possible for you to
2 wait until we get home, take this and study.....

3
4 MS. KLEIN: Uh-huh.

5
6 MR. L. WILDE:and -- and you don't
7 need.....

8
9 MS. KLEIN: No, I don't need.....

10
11 MR. L. WILDE:to have that answer
12 right now, right?

13
14 MS. KLEIN: Correct.

15
16 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.

17
18 MS. KLEIN: These are due for resubmission
19 on November 20th. So Dan and myself will be working on
20 them until that date to resubmit them. And we can speak
21 further at the YRFDA Board meeting, but we also wanted to
22 get outside information as well at the RAC meetings. So
23 you can look at it just as this is knowledge for you, YRFDA
24 is submitting these, these are the projects that we would
25 like to do and we wanted to inform you about it and in the
26 future get some input before we resubmit them.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.

29
30 MS. KLEIN: Thank you.

31
32 MR. L. WILDE: We're both learning Jill.

33
34 MS. KLEIN: It's all new.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now then we start our
37 reports under Tab 5 on your booklets. These are -- we
38 figure that these will be faster because they're reports
39 but I don't know. Vince.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you're the
42 Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the first one is Native
43 corporations. You talked about early on when you looked at
44 your agenda, you had a resolution from AVCP, Association of
45 Village Council Presidents. It might be wise for them, if
46 they have a representative here, to talk about their
47 resolution 0010-11, if not, I can summarize it for the
48 record and move forward but they submitted it.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

00199

1 MR. MATHEWS: And I'm not indicating that
2 we're limiting AVCP's testimony to that topic. I'm just
3 making sure that when the Council drafted its agenda,
4 approved its agenda earlier, that this was one that was
5 added so let the record reflect that I'm not stifling AVCP
6 just to their resolution.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Yeah, go ahead.

9

10 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
11 members of the Regional Council and guests, Staff. My name
12 is Tim Andrew. I am the director of Natural Resources for
13 the Association of Village Council Presidents based here in
14 Bethel. I have been serving in this capacity since 1996,
15 so it's been a number of years since I have been involved
16 in this line of work. Some of you are going to be hearing
17 this report on the second round that have been -- or have
18 gone to the Convention in Alongnak. And, you know, some of
19 the areas that I've talked in Alongnak have been discussed,
20 our resolution and I'll address those separately.

21

22 On the migratory bird issue. I see on your
23 agenda that you will get a report from the Fish and
24 Wildlife Service indicating that the Alaska Migratory Bird
25 Co-management Council is getting ready and set up for
26 adopting their bylaws and operational procedures. This is
27 going to occur on October 30th through November 1st in
28 Anchorage. And as far as the Waterfowl Conservation
29 Committee's participation in this meeting, the Waterfowl
30 Conservation Committee has not had the opportunity to
31 organize at this point, so things are pretty much at a
32 limbo with the Waterfowl Conservation Committee, but as
33 soon as they organize they'll be able to find out who their
34 member will be, but I assure you that there will be a
35 Waterfowl Conservation Committee member attending this
36 meeting within this next week.

37

38 Myron has -- Myron Nanning, the past
39 president of AVCP has been very instrumental in the
40 development of this Co-Management Council and, in fact, the
41 Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol Amendments. And I just
42 thought I'd take this opportunity to recognize his efforts
43 because he's worked very long and hard with much of the
44 State and Federal regulators along with the Flyaway Council
45 and with the different partners across the nation to make
46 sure that this Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol Amendment
47 passed.

48

49 And on the Marine Mammal Protection Act
50 Reauthorization. The Marine Mammal Protection Act

00200

1 proceedings right now is currently dead in Congress, it's
2 not going to be taken up at this session. In fact, they're
3 trying to adjourn here by Thursday to try and get home to
4 campaign before the November election, so it's not going to
5 be -- they're not going to be able to take it up in this
6 session but perhaps at the next session. The Federal
7 regulators have agreed to amend the -- that will be
8 proposed to Congress to enhance or expand our tribal co-
9 management for marine mammals and recognize the authority
10 of the tribal organizations, tribal councils to regulate
11 traditional uses in marine mammals. And our Congressman,
12 Congressman Don Young has expressed his support for this
13 new addition to the language.

14

15 As far as the Yukon/Kuskokwim River/Norton
16 Sound and TCC area -- or Yukon/Kuskokwim River/Norton Sound
17 disaster, we are trying at this point to get 40 million
18 dollars in research to research what is happening with our
19 salmon. This is something that we are very, very much
20 concerned about. Initially, AVCP submitted to Congress a
21 60 million dollar proposal, however, it has been taken over
22 -- or leadership has been taken over by the state of
23 Alaska, which they have pared down to 40 million dollars
24 for a five year project. At this time I do not know where
25 this proposal is at and as far as I know nothing has been
26 funded at this point.

27

28 On the Federal Subsistence Fishery
29 Management, we pushed all year with AITC and they intend to
30 get a tribal liaison position funded in tribal
31 organizations rather than just more Federal employees. In
32 the beginning of the Federal Subsistence Fishery process or
33 proposal process or since the beginning we have been trying
34 to get people that are employed in the villages employed
35 with regional tribal organizations to implement some of
36 these Federal subsistence fisheries proposal -- facilitate
37 their submission. But unfortunately we have been met up
38 with a lot of opposition and we would like to try and still
39 push for tribal liaisons within our Native organizations.

40

41 The subsistence use of halibut, there's
42 been a number of people that were involved with working
43 with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council with the
44 Governor's office with the National Marine Fisheries
45 Service and getting the North Pacific Fishery Management
46 Council to adopt subsistence fishery language into
47 regulation. Those people that were very much involved in
48 in making sure that we're able to subsistence harvest
49 halibut were Jennifer Hooper who is the fisheries biologist
50 for AVCP, Danny O'Bill from, I believe Tununak or Tookasuk,

00201

1 and there was another individual that was also involved,
2 and Robin Samuelsen was the other and Sky Starky as well.
3 These people have worked diligently and effortlessly -- I
4 mean with a lot of effort ensuring that Alaska Native
5 Peoples are able to subsistence harvest halibut.

6
7 And during the last -- during the
8 Convention, there was a motion on the floor for AVCP to
9 look into developing a Yukon/Kuskokwim Regional Subsistence
10 Commission. We have yet to start working on that since the
11 October meeting. I can see developments or working towards
12 the motion within this next year.

13
14 The Convention adopted a number of
15 resolutions, and which one of them you have in your hand --
16 I'll get that after I address this resolution. Resolution
17 No. 0010-10, this is directing that a change be made to the
18 composition of the Waterfowl Conservation Committee. And
19 the Convention did adopt this resolution. As I had
20 mentioned earlier, the Waterfowl Conservation Committee and
21 the executive board has not reorganized at this point to
22 determine how they're going to implement this resolution
23 because it calls for an entire change in the current
24 structure of the Waterfowl Conservation Committee.

25
26 The Resolution 0010-11, which the gentleman
27 had referenced to earlier, this resolution is submitted by
28 the Native Village of Scammon Bay. And the reason why they
29 submitted this resolution was primarily because they have
30 taken a lot of effort, a lot of time, and gone out and
31 hunting waterfowl or geese, snow geese in the Scammon Bay
32 area and to get close enough and then for an airplane to
33 come over and scare the geese away. I realize, you know,
34 there's a fortunate few that are able to hunt with aircraft
35 but they are only a few in the Yukon/Kuskokwim/Delta area
36 that are able to subsistence hunt waterfowl that way. It
37 kind of places the average person into an unfair edge as
38 far as competition to get to those resources. The
39 gentleman that I talked to to determine the background of
40 this, he was one of those people that was severely impacted
41 by an airplane coming over while he was hunting snow geese
42 around the Scammon Bay area.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ted, I was down in the
45 Scammon Bay when they were talking about this one here.
46 And those people down there that they make a long trip and
47 they go through, not only boat but they had to walk so many
48 miles in order to get a few birds, but there was a plane
49 there every time when they get to where the geese are, you
50 know, landing in the lake, the plane come over and chase

00202

1 them out. And those boys are really disgusted and
2 everything because it's not the first time the plane has
3 been done like that. It has been done before. And those
4 boys, they have to go back, another long trip, they didn't
5 catch nothing. They couldn't hunt because every time when
6 they go to where the birds are land in the lake, the walk
7 and pulling canoe or -- and a plane come over and chase
8 them out from -- while they're hunting. I don't blame them
9 if they're really disappointed and everything.

10

11 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This
12 resolution will be addressed by the Wildlife Conservation
13 Committee and perhaps this issue can be addressed by your
14 body as well, perhaps at some time in the future.

15

16 Mr. Chairman, if I may continue, there's
17 also a resolution 0010-12, which is titled Proposed
18 Continued Operation of (indiscernible - rattling papers).

19

20 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, we just have
21 one resolution, we don't have the rest of the stuff that
22 he's bringing up.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, I know.

25

26 MR. ANDREW: And I apologize for not
27 submitting the remainders of the copies but I thought I'd
28 let you know what the Convention has adopted at this point,
29 and if I may continue.

30

31 Authorizing an appeal for administrative
32 decision by the state of Alaska on the Kenai State
33 (indiscernible - rattling papers) villages. This
34 resolution, I'm not sure who submitted it but currently
35 there's -- and it has been a longstanding problem with the
36 hovercraft operations interfering with subsistence
37 resources within the Johnson River area. And that's why
38 this resolution was submitted.

39

40 Mr. Chairman, there was also a resolution
41 that was submitted by one of the villages on behalf of
42 Governor Knowles addressing one of the resolutions that
43 several of the Regional Councils have adopted and
44 encouraging the Governor and the Federal fishery managers
45 to halt the interception of salmon -- of our salmon that
46 come back from which we depend on. And that resolution was
47 0010-18.

48

49 Mr. Chairman, I believe that -- and there
50 was also another resolution, I apologize, Resolution 0010-

00203

1 19, which requests that National -- North Pacific Fishery
2 and Management Council reduce the by-catch quota for
3 chinook in the high seas trawl fishery. And this is in
4 response to the subsistence fishing restrictions that we
5 have on the Kuskokwim River and also on the Yukon River for
6 chinook salmon. This was sponsored by the Native Village
7 of St. Mary's and was adopted by the Convention.

8

9 Mr. Chairman, I believe that concludes my
10 report and I will answer any questions at this time.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from the
13 Council to Ted.

14

15 MR. OWELTUCK: I got one Mr. Chairman.
16 These will be submitted, these proposals or resolutions or
17 you want us to have action on them?

18

19 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, if I could
20 respond, a lot of these resolutions will be addressed
21 primarily by -- or will be addressed by our department, the
22 Natural Resource Department, they may be forwarded on to
23 the Regional Councils just to seek your support and seek
24 your help in making sure that some of these changes that we
25 ask for go through.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Ted.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the next --
30 unless I should -- there may be other Native groups, tribal
31 councils or regional non-profits here that would also like
32 to speak, I don't know if there are. This would be their
33 opportunity to brief the Council on subsistence concerns.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do we have Native
36 corporation or tribal councils here?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Then we move on to Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game. Early on that would be
40 probably timely to have commercial fisheries biologist,
41 Vince, get up here to go over the -- I believe he wanted to
42 go over the in-season and preliminary.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince, that gentleman over
45 there with the hat on, they want to know who you are and
46 what you do?

47

48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Who wants to know?

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We want your hat, yeah.

00204

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I work for the Tundra
2 Drums.
3
4 MS. GREGORY: Okay.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's okay.
7
8 MR. OWELTUCK: We thought you were a spy.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I am a spy so watch
13 what you say.
14
15 MS. GREGORY: You may continue Mr. Mathews.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Our lady here like your
20 hat.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'll try and get you
25 one.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Vince.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: I think it would be best to
30 deal with Commfish, commercial fisheries, I apologize for
31 that. And then maybe if there's other Fish and Game Staff,
32 they could organize their -- how they're going to present
33 them, I'm not sure if wildlife conservation has additional,
34 I'm not sure -- I haven't had a chance to talk to Division
35 of Subsistence, so we'll leave it up to them to come up to
36 the table to do their presentations.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Do we have Mike
41 back there, too, you want to be on the table, too -- okay,
42 come forward and move your employees off from there and sit
43 down.
44
45 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Mr. Chairman, which order
46 would you like the presentations to go, would you like
47 Charlie Burkey to start on Kuskokwim and Mike Coffing and
48 then myself.
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Whoever has the biggest --

00205

1 yeah, the biggest.....

2

3 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Well, I guess that leaves
4 me with the Yukon River. For those of you that don't know
5 me, my name is Vince Golembeski. I'm with the Alaska
6 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division
7 and I'm on the Yukon area. I'm responsible, along with Tom
8 Vonya and other biologists for the management of the coho
9 and summer chum salmon from the time they enter the Yukon
10 River to the Canadian border, and I'll also cover the fall
11 season for fall chum and coho if you'd like.

12

13 Most of the work that I'll speak about is
14 covered in the preliminary season summary that I handed out
15 earlier and also the fall season material is covered in
16 this pamphlet. So I'll go through the summer season one
17 first here. I just highlighted some of the key points and
18 I'll go over those with you.

19

20 Going into the season as we mentioned when
21 this meeting met this spring in Nunapitchuk, the 2000 pre-
22 season outlook was for a weak to below average run of
23 chinook and summer chum salmon, and we estimated that we
24 would have enough for escapement and subsistence and
25 limited commercial harvest of somewhere between 25,000 to
26 65,000 chinook in the Alaska portion of the drainage. In-
27 season, our Emmonak test fish indices and subsistence
28 harvest reports provided us with information to in-season
29 and as the run progressed upriver we were looking at
30 projects from our test fishing nets, we had nets in for our
31 traditional set gillnet test fisheries in the Emmonak, Big
32 Eddy, Middle and North Mouth areas. And we also tried some
33 drift gillnetting this year, first time for king salmon in
34 quite a few years, along with the drift gillnetting test
35 fishery for chums which was in its second year of operation
36 this year.

37

38 The other monitoring projects that we look
39 at are, going upriver, would be the Andreafsky River weir,
40 Pilot Station sonar counts, Kaltag Creek escapement to
41 counting tower, Nulato counting tower, Kasaga (ph) counting
42 -- Kasaga weir and then up the Koyukuk, there's the Clear
43 Creek counting tower. And then going up the Tanana River,
44 our next monitoring projects are, we have a test fish wheel
45 which sometimes gives us timing and abundance and then on
46 the escapement projects on the Tanana for summer season
47 we're looking at the Chena and Salcha River counting towers
48 and also to a certain extent on the Chatanega River.

49

50 Based on our -- in-season based on our test

00206

1 fish catch per unit effort and the subsistence information
2 and the preliminary numbers from the Pilot Station, the
3 chinook salmon run appeared to be starting slow and it was
4 tracking similar to the 1998 run which was a poor run but
5 we did have some commercial harvest. And then in 1998 we
6 estimated that -- even though we harvested about 44,000 and
7 we didn't make some escapement goals, we estimated that we
8 could have made escapement goals, provided for subsistence
9 and had a limited harvest of about 20,000, so in-season was
10 following the 1998 pattern. And that's what it looked like
11 with our test nets there based on our catch per unit
12 effort, we were right in between 1998 and 1999.

13

14 Some things that may have played a factor
15 in that was there was a large amount of debris and high
16 water early on in the season and continued throughout most
17 of the season for the king run. So that was a factor that
18 may have mislead us at that time. The commercial fishery
19 opened up on June 24th, it was the latest date -- it was
20 tied for the latest date since statehood for a commercial
21 opening. At that point in time we had two large pulses of
22 fish that we had allowed them to move throughout the Lower
23 Yukon districts, just being fished subsistence wise, and we
24 were getting mixed reports from subsistence -- reports
25 throughout the lower river. At first people were
26 mentioning that there weren't a whole lot of fish but as
27 the first pulse moved through people were starting to meet
28 their initial subsistence needs. As that second pulse
29 moved in through the lower river, more people made their
30 subsistence needs. Other factors, early on, affecting
31 subsistence harvest were a lack of fuel in some villages.
32 People weren't able to go out and people weren't able to
33 access their traditional fishing sites due to the high
34 water and the debris.

35

36 We have the two openings in the lower
37 river, in District 1 and one opening in District 2. That
38 low commercial harvest was approximately 10 percent of the
39 recent average and it was the lowest harvest, commercially,
40 since 1937. The harvest was spread out over the latter
41 portion of the run and an attempt was made to focus the
42 harvest on the lower river stocks to let those fish get up
43 and go through the subsistence harvest and go to the
44 border.

45

46 Our Emmonak test fish catch per unit effort
47 and Pilot Station sonar effort began to lag behind the 1998
48 run assessment approximately June 30th, as the largest
49 pulses of fish moved past the middle river communities.
50 Subsistence harvest reports indicated that fewer needs were

00207

1 being met and therefore no commercial fishing periods were
2 scheduled. The commercial harvest in the three periods we
3 had, they were unrestricted mesh. We were aiming to target
4 king salmon. In-season test fishing indices and harvest
5 reports were mentioning that it was a weak run of summer
6 chum salmon, so therefore there was no summer chum
7 commercial harvest period scheduled.

8

9 Commercial sales and around were about
10 8,500 chinook and 6,600 summer chum salmon and the summer
11 chum salmon was also the lowest harvest on a directed
12 summer chum fishery since 1967. Looking at the thing
13 there, looking at the season the 2000 Yukon River chinook
14 and summer chum salmon runs continued to exhibit the
15 decline and productivity observed in recent years. Five
16 and six year old chinook salmon abundance was less than
17 would have been expected based on our parent year
18 escapements. Based on parent year escapements, we should
19 have had a better productivity and we had good escapements
20 back on the parent years.

21

22 Also the summer chum salmon abundance has
23 been below average to poor since '97 and also those parent
24 year escapements were very good in '94, in the years '94
25 through '96. One factor that may have played a factor in
26 that was in the 1994, there was extreme flooding in the
27 Koyukuk River drainage and in some of the upper river
28 drainages. And during the winter of '95 to '96, we had low
29 snow cover in the upper reaches of the Yukon River and
30 things iced over and froze pretty solid there and there was
31 no buffering from the snow.

32

33 Other factors that may have played a factor
34 in the low productivity is the change in climatic and ocean
35 conditions that appear to have impacted salmon survival the
36 last few years.

37

38 Management of the commercial fishery was
39 conservative to meet the anticipated harvest levels that we
40 expected preseason. Again, like I mentioned, June 24th
41 was one of the latest openings, it was tied for the latest
42 opening on record. And this was approximately after nine
43 days of increasing subsistence and test fishery catches.
44 And then once again, we had good abundance of fish moving
45 through the Lower Yukon from about June 19th through June
46 24th and then it remained steady through June 29th but
47 after June 29th, the passage dropped off.

48

49 For escapements and Yukon River chinook
50 salmon abundance from 2000 was assessed as being very poor

00208

1 based on commercial and escapement estimates from selected
2 tributaries. In the Yukon River drainage chinook salmon
3 escapements in 200 range from 29 percent to 71 percent
4 below the recent five year averages throughout the
5 drainage. We only made escapement goals in two of the
6 surveyed rivers and that was the Anvik River and the Salcha
7 River. All the other rivers were all way below average.

8
9 Passage into Canada was also low. We had a
10 spawning escapement of approximately 14,000 chinook salmon
11 into Canada and this is approximately 51 percent below the
12 rebuilding step goal of 28,000.

13
14 Summer chum salmon, the monitored
15 escapement projects range from 44 to 84 percent below the
16 recent five year averages. And those are reflected on the
17 last two graphs there, graph -- Figure 7 and Figure 8. You
18 know, you can compare those to what happened in 2000
19 compared to the last five years.

20
21 And that's pretty much the season summary
22 of the king salmon there. Like I said, things started to
23 drop off in the lower river around June 30th. We were
24 still assessing the run continuously up until the border. W
25 e started getting reports that people in the middle and
26 upper Yukon weren't meeting their needs even as the first
27 two pulses of fish moved by. Around July -- we started
28 looking at things seriously right after that and by July
29 14th, we closed the personal use fishery in the Fairbanks
30 non-subsistence area, sport fishing in the Tanana River
31 drainage was put on catch and release only and then on July
32 19th, we had a reduction in subsistence salmon fishing time
33 for chinook and summer chum salmon and also sport fishery
34 was closed in the Yukon River drainage on July 19th.

35
36 That pretty much summarizes the king and
37 summer chum salmon.

38
39 Those subsistence fishing restrictions that
40 were implemented for the king and summer chum run because
41 we were expecting a low run of fall chum salmon, those
42 restrictions remained in effect at the start of the fall
43 season based on what we saw for return for chum salmon and
44 also based on our preseason forecast for fall chum salmon.

45
46 Any questions on this portion of summer
47 chum and king salmon runs? Lester or Harry.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If no questions, let's go
50 into Kuskokwim.

00209

1 MR. GOLEMBESKI: I have a little more on the
2 fall chum if you.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay, oh, fall chum,
5 yeah. Okay, go ahead.

6
7 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Like I said, those
8 restrictions in time up on the Yukon were in effect at the
9 start of the fall chum season. Like I said, we were
10 expecting a run of approximately 500,000 to 1,100,000 fall
11 chum salmon but based on what we saw on the return of the
12 summer chum salmon and kings, we felt that the productivity
13 would also be low for the fall chum salmon and we were
14 figuring and in assessing the run, would be weak also and
15 that it wouldn't have enough to provide for all the
16 subsistence needs for the fall season, so those remained in
17 effect at the start of the season.

18
19 In-season for the fall chum were relied
20 more on the in-season run assessment tools earlier in the
21 run than usual based on what we saw for the summer season.
22 A majority of the fall chum salmon entered the Yukon River
23 from mid-July through early September in erratic pulses or
24 surges that usually last two or three days. Typically
25 there are four or five such pulses in the season and these
26 pulses are often associated with on shore wind events or
27 high tides. The 2000 fall chum salmon run showed some
28 strength in the early portion of the run but was followed
29 by extremely weak pulses. These pulses lasted generally
30 less than a day and sometimes they were only, you know, one
31 or two tides so it was real weak pulses coming in. Like I
32 said, we were following that run there based on our test
33 nets at the mouth at Emmonak and middle mouth -- the
34 Mountain Village test fishery project, Pilot Station,
35 Kaltag and the Tanana River projects and Rampart rapids
36 early in the season.

37
38 On average about 62 percent of the fall
39 chum run has entered the Yukon River by August 10th. We
40 came out with our first in-season projection on August
41 12th. We were projecting that the run was going to be less
42 than 350,000 fall chum salmon at that time, and at that
43 time a decision was made to reduce and close the salmon
44 fishery on August 23rd. By that time we had more
45 information from upriver projects from the middle Yukon,
46 things had already moved through the first two districts,
47 Districts 1, 2 and 3 and were moving through District 4 and
48 5 at that point in time.

49
50 By September 14th, we had a sonar estimate

00210

1 of about 250,000 fall chum salmon and the fall season
2 management plan requires that you close the fishery if
3 there's less than 350,000, so we followed the plan and
4 followed all the monitoring projects that we could for as
5 long as we could before we made the decision to reduce and
6 close the subsistence fishery for the fall season.

7

8 Right now we still assess the run as being
9 very poor. There's still a few projects that will be
10 ongoing in Canada but pretty much the U.S. portion of our
11 monitoring projects are all done. None of them have -- to-
12 date have made their escapement goals for fall chum salmon.

13

14 Okay, the only other thing, Harry, that I
15 have, Mr. Chairman, is preliminary outlook for the year
16 2001, we've mentioned at the other two RAC Councils that
17 Staff has been attending and we're expecting the production
18 to remain low, we don't see any quick turnaround next year
19 so we're looking at a poor -- we're expecting a poor run of
20 kings and chum salmon again next year. It's unlikely that
21 there'll be a commercial fishery and it's probable and
22 possible that there might be cause for subsistence fishing
23 restriction time at the beginning of the king and summer
24 season next year. We're just going to have to work through
25 the data that we have collected as we get all the
26 escapement data from Canada and age our scales here, and
27 we'll be looking at that. We'll have more information for
28 the YRFDA and the ACs and RACs here come the springtime in
29 March. But we just want to get the word out, like for
30 kings, we had very poor return of six year olds this year.
31 We had poor return of five year old king salmon so we
32 wouldn't expect to see the return of six year olds to be
33 good this coming year. And generally 60 percent of the run
34 is six year old king salmon. So we're not expecting to see
35 a whole lot of six year old fish, and we haven't seen a
36 good return of five year olds for the last two years. So
37 we're not expecting a big run of kings so we're looking at,
38 you know, possible restrictions.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So you mean that there
41 might be a possibility of no commercial this summer?

42

43 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Right. It's highly likely
44 that there is not going to be a commercial fishing season
45 for king salmon this year. Again, we'll do in-season
46 management, as we always do, but right now, what we're
47 projecting is that there won't be enough king salmon
48 returning to the Yukon to have a commercial fishery based
49 on what we've seen in productivity the last two years,
50 since '88, you know, '88 we had a poor run [sic] -- I mean

00211

1 '98 was a poor run, '99 was slightly better in some
2 respects and then this year, 2000, was really poor, bad.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any way that you
5 guys could have a meeting in the Yukon River to see that --
6 all the Yukon people, especially in the Lower Yukon, they
7 should all know this information.

8
9 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Yeah, we'll probably have
10 some meetings here come this springtime.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's only three of us
13 in here so.....

14
15 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Right. We'll have that
16 meeting, the YRFDA meeting will be happening in March in
17 Holy Cross, and I'm sure that we can have some fishermen's
18 meeting in the Lower Yukon, Emmonak or St. Mary's or
19 possibly Mountain Village. I'm sure that's in the works
20 here, and we can also have teleconferences, too. But we'll
21 get the word out, like I said, we've mentioned it at the
22 last two RACs, and I'm mentioning it here so that you can
23 pass the word so it's not a total surprise to people, but,
24 yeah, the word will get out. I'm sure things will come out
25 in the Board of Fish meeting in January, you know, there's
26 a lot of Yukon River proposals and AYK proposals in January
27 at the meeting in Fairbanks and word will get out then.
28 The next big planned meeting is the YRFDA meeting in Holy
29 Cross in late February or early March and then some
30 fishermen's meetings like we have preseason.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from the
33 Council.

34
35 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik)

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yupik) Thank you.

38
39 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Kuskokwim.

42
43 MR. BURKEY: Mr. Chairman, RAC members.
44 I'll reintroduce myself, my name is Charlie Burkey, I'm the
45 Kuskokwim area commercial fisheries manager. I've been in
46 Bethel and involved in this management since 1988. I
47 passed around the preliminary 2000 Kuskokwim area
48 commercial salmon fishery summary to the members there.
49 I'll be summarizing that basically.

50

00212

1 When you talk about the Kuskokwim area, I'm
2 going to split it into two parts. There's the Kuskokwim
3 River and the Kuskokwim Bay. There's two districts in the
4 Kuskokwim River and two commercial fishing districts on
5 Kuskokwim Bay. I'll address each one of those separately.

6
7 I'll start off with the Kuskokwim River.
8 Our preseason outlook was for below average king and chum
9 salmon returns. That's based on primarily parent year
10 escapements and the poor survivals of salmon that we've
11 seen in the last couple of years, the trend in the last
12 couple of years. We also had an outlook for an average --
13 anywhere from a below average to an above average coho
14 salmon run. We really, quite frankly, didn't know what to
15 expect as far as coho or salmon returns.

16
17 In-season it became pretty obvious pretty
18 quickly in season based on reports from subsistence
19 fishermen and reports -- and the information that we were
20 getting from our fisheries assessment projects, test
21 fisheries, weirs and what have you, that the king and chum
22 salmon returns were even poorer than we expected. We had
23 expected a good probability of enough returns of kings and
24 chums to make escapement and meet subsistence needs and
25 maybe with even a limited commercial harvest. Well, it
26 looked early in the season like we weren't even going to
27 meet those expectations.

28
29 The working group, on June 26th, they
30 recommended a fishing period in the Kuskokwim River. The
31 Department of Fish and Game in consultation with Fish and
32 Wildlife Service, we chose not to accept that
33 recommendation because of our concerns of the extremely
34 poor run strength that we were experiencing at the time.
35 Later on, in late June and early July, we saw an increase,
36 a substantial increase in the return of chum salmon coming
37 into the river so on July 3rd, the working group
38 recommended and the Department and Fish and Wildlife,
39 Federal Subsistence Board accepted a commercial period on
40 July 5th. July the 5th is the latest that the Kuskokwim
41 River has opened to commercial fishing, ever opened to
42 commercial fishing since it started.

43
44 Only the lower half of the district, Bethel
45 on down, was the only part that was opened and that was
46 done to minimize the harvest of king salmon which we were
47 still very concerned about meeting subsistence -- meeting
48 escapement needs and subsistence. The results from that
49 period were extremely, extremely low commercial catches of
50 commercial chum and king salmon. We harvested about 330,

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1 340 king salmon and 11,000 chum salmon. So it became very
2 evident to everybody at that point that we had an extremely
3 poor return of king and chum salmon. And basically that
4 was it for commercial fishing for kings -- or for chum
5 salmon in 2000.

6
7 The day after the Department got together
8 with the Fish and Wildlife Service and we discussed the
9 state of the runs and we came to the conclusion or we came
10 to the agreement that something needed to be done to
11 protect the king salmon, the king salmon escapement,
12 especially. We were very concerned that we were not going
13 to meet our escapement needs for king salmon. And after
14 discussing this, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, we
15 approached the Board of Fish and they held an emergency
16 meeting on July 8th, I believe it was, and they instituted
17 restrictions on the subsistence fishery. They restricted
18 gillnet mesh sizes to six inch or less and that was done in
19 order to minimize the subsistence harvest of the large
20 female and large male king salmon so that they could reach
21 the spawning grounds. We also limited -- the Board of Fish
22 also limited the harvest of king salmon in the rod and reel
23 subsistence fishery to one king salmon per day per
24 fisherman.

25
26 The Federal Subsistence Board met that next
27 Monday, the Board actions happened on a Saturday, the
28 Federal Subsistence Board met on Monday and they passed the
29 same regulations under the Federal Subsistence -- they
30 passed what's called a special action that did, basically
31 the same thing. So that was it for as far as commercial
32 fishing in June and July.

33
34 The coho salmon return started to build in
35 late July. It came in relatively early and relatively
36 strong at the beginning. And so on August the 1st, we
37 reopened the commercial fishery on the Kuskokwim River for
38 coho salmon. Again, only that part of the river from
39 Bethel on down was opened in order to conserve any chum
40 salmon that were left to minimize the catch of chum salmon
41 and king salmon and to start getting a commercial harvest
42 on the coho fishery.

43
44 The coho fishery, coho return, it appeared
45 to be about average in strength and fishing continued
46 pretty much through August. One thing that was different
47 about the fishing this year was that because of limiting
48 processing capacity the Board of Fish passed a regulation
49 in December that split District W1 in half and required
50 fishermen to register, something very similar to what they

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1 do with commercial fishermen on the Yukon where they
2 register -- you register for what fishing district you're
3 going to fish in so fishermen decided whether they were
4 going to fish downriver or upriver and then they stayed
5 there with limited ability to transfer from one to district
6 back to another district. So fishing continued pretty much
7 on a regular schedule through August and then at the end of
8 August, August 24th, the last commercial period for coho
9 salmon.

10

11 Basically the catches, the commercial
12 catches in the Kuskokwim River in 2000 were the king salmon
13 catch of 400-some odd fish was pretty much the lowest catch
14 on record commercially. The chum salmon catch of 11,000 or
15 12,000 was also extremely low. The coho catch was about
16 260,000 fish which was about half -- a little better than
17 half of the most recent 10-year average. Escapements for
18 king and chum salmon were extremely poor throughout the
19 Kuskokwim River drainage. Five weir projects and a sonar
20 project all confirmed very low returns of -- very low
21 escapements of king and chum salmon throughout the
22 drainage. The coho salmon escapement was assessed to be
23 good. We had -- we believe we had an adequate coho salmon
24 escapement in the river.

25

26 In District -- I'll switch quickly to the
27 Bay, Districts W4 and W5, Quinhagak and Goodnews Bay, the
28 king salmon and the red salmon fisheries there in June and
29 July were very average. The fishing time and the catches
30 in those fisheries were about average and some were a
31 little bit above average for kings and red salmon. The
32 chum salmon catches, though, were poor. They were about
33 half the most recent 10-year averages, they were poor. In
34 August when we switched to coho, the catches of coho in the
35 Bay were below average in both W4 and W5, and that reflects
36 a relatively poor or below average return of coho salmon in
37 those districts. Our best assessment of escapement in
38 those districts was a good -- was a fair to good king
39 salmon escapement -- or king salmon and red salmon
40 escapement, a poor chum salmon escapement -- relatively
41 poor chum salmon escapement, and a relatively average or
42 adequate coho salmon escapement in those districts.

43

44 The outlook for 2001, I'll quickly go
45 through the outlook for 2001, it's very similar to that for
46 kings and chums. It's very similar to that which you just
47 heard for the Yukon based on the last couple of years,
48 three to four years of poor survivals of king and chum
49 salmon. We're expecting below average to very poor returns
50 of those two species in the Kuskokwim River. We expect --

00215

1 or we anticipate very little probability of a commercial
2 fishery in June and July for chum salmon. And we also are
3 anticipating the possibility of having to implement
4 subsistence restrictions. We don't know whether we'll be
5 starting out the season with subsistence restrictions or
6 not, we haven't put that plan together yet. But definitely
7 we're going to be looking at the possibility of
8 restrictions, either preseason or in-season if the run is
9 as poor or more poor than what we believe will return. As
10 Vince said, we will be managing in-season based on what
11 returns but people need to realize the realities of what
12 we're facing and what could result from that.

13

14 And then the coho salmon return, we're
15 expecting somewhere between a below average coho salmon
16 return. We don't feel it's going to be quite as poor as
17 the -- relatively poor as the king or chum salmon returns,
18 but we do expect a below average of coho salmon. And that
19 applies to both the Kuskokwim River and the Kuskokwim Bay.

20

21 Red salmon returns to the Kuskokwim Bay we
22 expect to be about average to maybe even above average.

23

24 And I'll just leave it at that. The only
25 other thing I'd like to bring in front of the RAC committee
26 is that we're in the process of we've submitted two pre-
27 proposals to the Federal Subsistence Management Board that
28 have been okay'd and cleared the first hurdle and we'll be
29 developing full blown proposals for and you guys will be
30 reviewing at your meeting there in January. One of them
31 has to do with support for the Kuskokwim River Salmon
32 Management Working Group. The support will allow some face
33 to face meetings which have been high on everybody's list
34 of things to do to help out the working group. And we will
35 also support for helping out our -- improving our
36 teleconferencing, ability to teleconference. And just to
37 make the process -- help the working group process along.

38

39 And the other one is for money for the
40 Department to increase its participation and help with the
41 salmon counting weir on the Kanaktok River. We've been
42 struggling to install some kind of a salmon enumeration
43 project on the Kuskokwim River with NVK for the last four
44 years and hopefully if we can -- hopefully with the Federal
45 Subsistence Board help we can increase our involvement and
46 hopefully get that project on track and provide a much
47 needed in-season management tool for the District W4, the
48 Kanaktok River.

49

50 Thank you.

00216

1 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

4

5 MS. GREGORY: I want everybody to stand up
6 and stretch, we're all falling asleep.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 MR. NICK: For my information on
13 subsistence needs, can you elaborate a little more on
14 possible preseason restrictions that might occur?

15

16 MR. BURKEY: Mr. Chairman, Charlie Burkey.
17 Like I said, Robert, we haven't set anything in stone or
18 really solidified exactly what or how we're going to go
19 into the season next year. I think you're looking -- right
20 now we're kicking around things, right now, of starting the
21 season -- you know we have a whole bunch of different
22 options we're looking at and they go from a cooperative
23 appeal to people to minimize as much as possible their
24 harvest. Things like maybe use six inch mesh to catch more
25 smaller kings and let bigger kings go. Anywhere from some
26 sort of gear or time or area restrictions. Things that
27 have been discussed are things like gear restrictions, like
28 six inch or less mesh, other things are -- that have been
29 discussed are things like having subsistence fishing
30 periods, X number of hours per week or something like this
31 all the way up to complete closures. What I hope to come
32 out with this is a plan where we have a bunch of different
33 options that will be applicable to this situation and, of
34 course, the working group and the public and anybody else
35 who's interested are going to be -- you know, as we do the
36 in-season management, we are going to be developing these
37 options and taking them to the working group and to other
38 people to help us out to act as the situation warrants.

39

40 MR. NICK: Can I follow-up. Were those
41 that occurred -- the mesh size has been done before so
42 we're familiar with that. But the time, a time period, I
43 think was done one summer -- but I guess what I'm hearing
44 is immediately one day a week, like you did in the Yukon,
45 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., I'm assuming that this is a --
46 try Tier II situations, like you go into the season with no
47 sports fishing -- with sports fishing closed, I'm assuming
48 that?

49

50 MR. BURKEY: Well, we -- like I say, we

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1 haven't come to that conclusion yet as a Staff but
2 basically if we start instituting subsistence restrictions,
3 then we'll have to take the appropriate actions with sports
4 fish and commercial fishing because of the subsistence
5 priority. So if we start the season with subsistence
6 restrictions, you may be right, that that's -- but like I
7 say we're going through a whole list of options and we're
8 not saying that we're going to start the season with
9 subsistence seasons, hopefully we don't, but we'll -- it's
10 definitely -- we're definitely going to try to figure out a
11 way to react appropriately to what we feel will be a bad
12 situation as far as fish go.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ida.

15

16 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. Just a
18 reminder that part of this morning's discussion or
19 yesterday's, I don't remember, when we talked about which
20 Council members are going to participate in the meetings in
21 Anchorage, and the first one is at the end of November,
22 these are the meetings that are going to be discussing the
23 post-season evaluations and the projections for next year.
24 And across the board, everybody's been saying there's no
25 fish and they don't expect more fish next year, so it's
26 looking at the worst case scenarios and developing options
27 that the Councils will have to consider, so I urge you,
28 when you pick your members to come into town to attend and
29 participate in these meetings, that you come knowing that
30 you're going to be looking at the worst numbers and you're
31 going to be looking at options. So it isn't something that
32 will be answered at this meeting today but it is something
33 that's going to be discussed in the near future.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

36

37 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I just
38 understood suggesting that you start a preseason with
39 restriction on subsistence, you're not going to get any
40 people to follow that because for survival people will not
41 listen to nobody if they're going hungry and they'll go out
42 and hunt and fish and I, for one, will support them, 110
43 percent.

44

45 MR. L. WILDE: I'll listen to them because
46 I don't live on the Kuskokwim.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mike.

49

50 MR. COFFING: I just wanted to add to

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1 Charlie's response to Mr. Nick's question. You know where
2 we don't want to be is to be next -- find ourselves next
3 May or early June and tell the public this is the way it's
4 going to be; that's not the way it's going to happen.
5 We're going to be talking to people continually all the way
6 through the winter through the spring, and we'll be looking
7 to -- and when I say, you, I mean -- I don't mean just the
8 Council, I mean the public, the fishers, subsistence
9 fishers, families that live in the area, the working group
10 for advice on how to approach this. If we have a problem,
11 the solution to the problem is one that we all can come up
12 with within the statutory regulations and management
13 regimes that we have to follow. That is, we have to get
14 enough fish up to spawn for escapement, then subsistence
15 and then other type of fisheries like sport fishing and
16 commercial. But it isn't something that the Department's
17 going to be springing on people. We're going to be talking
18 with you all along through the process, from here all the
19 way to next spring.

20

21 And you know, we'll talk about some
22 options. We want you to bring some options, too. How would
23 people in the Kuskokwim River drainage like to see this
24 work, if we have to have restrictions, what would you offer
25 as some ways to do that? And we may find ourselves, you
26 know, next spring with a decent run of chinook salmon and
27 chum salmon and not have to implement some of these things.
28 I mean I want to comfort all of you that we're going to
29 keep talking with people about this and we're not going to
30 step out without those discussions and tell people how it's
31 going to be. You know, we want your input. We want input
32 from Robert, other folks in the region to help address
33 this.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: More Council comments or
36 questions. Thank you.

37

38 MR. COFFING: Okay. You've got Yukon?

39

40 MR. HANDER: Yes.

41

42 MR. COFFING: You're going to jump back to
43 Yukon from Kuskokwim or.....

44

45 MR. HANDER: I just have a short.....

46

47 MR. COFFING: Go ahead, yeah.

48

49 MR. HANDER: Ray Hander, U.S. Fish and
50 Wildlife Service. I just want to let the Council know that

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1 the Federal management side of this issue and the outlook
2 for next season, we're certainly in the same ball game as
3 everybody else and we want to be responsible, as well, for
4 any subsistence issues that come about, and we're part of
5 the show as far as people you can call to find out
6 information and continue communications with. So I just
7 want to make sure that I didn't sit back there in that seat
8 and not keep us in the show as well, as a responsible
9 partner.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mike.

14

15 MR. COFFING: I've got a handout coming at
16 you. I'm going to try to keep this under five minutes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

19

20 MR. COFFING: So we'll move right along and
21 then you can ask questions if you have any.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Try to bring some fish
24 back to Western Yukon and Kuskokwim.

25

26 MR. COFFING: I'm going to talk about,
27 really kind of three areas. I'm going to talk about what
28 we've learned. This is focusing on salmon, the first one
29 here, what we've learned in the past, what we've done this
30 year, what we hope to do in the future as far as getting
31 information and presenting information to the Councils from
32 the Subsistence Division.

33

34 What you have in front of you is a bar
35 graph that shows harvest information for the last 11 years.
36 Excuse me 1989 through 1999. Each of these have a line on
37 them and the line that you see is a trend line, it tells
38 you whether things are going up or going down. That's one
39 the computer puts on there based on the bar graphs. The
40 top one there shows subsistence chinook harvest, now, this
41 is for the Kuskokwim, this does not include Hooper Bay,
42 Chevak, Scammon, Yukon drainage, this is just for the
43 Kuskokwim, including the Bay here.

44

45 Not a lot of change trendwise for chinook
46 salmon, subsistence harvest in the Kuskokwim. Down a
47 little bit, but relatively flat so fairly stable chinook
48 harvest. Again, this doesn't have the summer's harvest on
49 it. We're gathering that data right now and hopefully I'll
50 have that for you this next spring.

00220

1 The back side of the first page shows
2 sockeye harvest and you can see there that every year
3 there's some ups and downs, each year is different. Trend
4 is sort of flat, there's not a big decrease or big
5 increase, fairly straight across there as far as the
6 subsistence sockeye harvest goes over the last 11 years.
7

8 What I want to really point your attention
9 to here is chum and coho, that's the last page. Now, these
10 lines look a lot different than they do for chinook and
11 sockeye, and you can see the trend is down over the last 11
12 years here. Last year, 1999 we had the second lowest chum
13 salmon harvest on record, at least, in the last 11 years.
14 1997 was a poor year but significantly down over time.
15

16 We're seeing the same sort of trend with
17 coho salmon, decline in harvest, subsistence harvest over
18 time here on the Kuskokwim. And you've heard Vince talk
19 about how the runs were on the Yukon and Charlie's talked
20 about the Kuskokwim. You know, these catches, subsistence
21 catches for chum and coho salmon sort of mirror what's
22 happened with some of the runs. The runs have declined,
23 catches have declined for these two species. So I don't
24 know what this means, you know, I'm not going to predict
25 whether things are going to go up or continue to go down.
26 We will continue to gather information, though, and bring
27 to the Council and to the Advisory Committees and to the
28 working group here on the Kuskokwim.
29

30 Let me talk a little bit about this year.
31 This year in-season -- there were some in-season projects
32 going on on the Kuskokwim that included gathering
33 information from subsistence fishers on the Kuskokwim, that
34 was carried out through the ONC office in Bethel, who were
35 on the river talking to subsistence fishers about how
36 fishing was going, is it going good, are you catching the
37 fish you need. They were then bringing that information to
38 the working group. Some of us in Fish and Wildlife Service
39 and Fish and Game were also making phone calls to
40 communities along the river and down the Bay, Lime Village,
41 Nikolai, McGrath to find out how fishing was going for
42 them, to get some read of how is it shaping up for those
43 communities and we would bring that information to the
44 working for the working group to use in their assessment
45 and evaluation of the fish runs during the summertime. So
46 that's something that we hope to continue.
47

48 Currently we are gathering subsistence
49 salmon harvest information from households in the Kuskokwim
50 area. We're doing it in the villages from Nikolai, McGrath

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1 down the Kuskokwim, including Kuskokwim Bay. There's two
2 individual that are working on that project now, they're
3 out traveling. We also have a cooperative project in
4 Bethel with ONC funded through monies from the Fish and
5 Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management to
6 gather information from Bethel households. It's the second
7 year that we've done this where we've been able to go house
8 to house and try to get every Bethel household and ask them
9 what they harvested for salmon, did they fish for salmon
10 this past summer and get those numbers down and bring those
11 numbers in and include them in with information we're
12 providing to the Council for the Kuskokwim.

13

14 In Bethel, we're also gathering information
15 on other fish this year. We're asking people to estimate
16 for us how many fish they've harvested in the past year,
17 all species; smelt, black fish, whitefish, berbot, rainbow
18 trout, you name it, we're trying to get all information on
19 all fish for the community of Bethel. We're hoping in time
20 to also ask that in other communities but we're starting in
21 Bethel to do that.

22

23 One of the pieces of good news, I think, we
24 can all bring and some of it we've heard a little bit about
25 this morning is that there's some real opportunities in
26 this area now to gather some information that we really
27 need. We don't have as much information as we'd like on
28 stock status, on trends, populations of fish throughout the
29 drainages as well as what are people harvesting, how are
30 they using it, where are they catching it and local
31 knowledge about how people perceive those fisheries and
32 those fish stocks being now compared to long-term. The
33 program that Fish and Wildlife Service has to fund some
34 additional research is coming together, and what we're
35 hoping to do as a group, and when I say, a group, meaning
36 Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Game, different
37 divisions of Fish and Game, the local Native organizations,
38 non-profit organizations like AVCP and Kuskokwim Native
39 Association, McGrath Tribal Native Council, ONC, and some
40 villages, is to think of places where we need information,
41 how can we work together to get that information, try to
42 write up some sort of a proposal. Some of those you've
43 seen similarly today, earlier, but that same sort of idea,
44 where we can all work together to gather information that
45 we all need and can benefit from.

46

47 What we're hoping to do next year, some
48 ideas, they haven't been funded yet, they may be funded
49 though, is to gather in-season information on the Kuskokwim
50 from ONC's participation, in the middle Kuskokwim with the

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1 Kuskokwim Native Association's participation, up in McGrath
2 with McGrath Native Council's participation as well as some
3 postseason, that is, gather information after fishing is
4 done in Bethel with ONC again, and also work in some other
5 communities to gather information on fish other than
6 salmon. Some ideas would be working with people in
7 Nunapitchuk to learn more about what fish they harvest in
8 the tundra area. Working with folks in the Aniak area, and
9 Chuathbaluk to find out what they're harvesting in the
10 Aniak River drainage for all species. Similarly, over on
11 the Yukon, with the Chilinuk River, working with the
12 residents in Marshall, Mountain Village and those
13 communities to find out what fisheries are there in that
14 system and what's being harvested and when and what kind of
15 issues and problem are there, including identifying and
16 mapping important subsistence use areas with communities
17 over there.

18

19 So I think, you know, down the road here,
20 you're going to see some good information coming in that we
21 can all benefit from. You'll benefit from, you'll have a
22 better understanding of how the fish populations or stocks
23 are doing, and you'll have better subsistence information
24 that you'll find useful when you're making determinations
25 on some of these proposals that you see in the future.

26

27 So with that, I'll stop. Thanks for your
28 time.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

31

32 MR. NICK: Tom.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, Tom.

35

36 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Tom Kron, Office of
37 Subsistence Management. I just wanted to follow-up. Mike
38 Coffing talked about the importance of working with all of
39 the people, the people on the river, the public, the
40 Regional Council, the Fish and Game Advisory Committees,
41 everyone through this winter to deal with this coming
42 summer. And on behalf of the Office of Subsistence
43 Management as well, I wanted to say that, you know, there's
44 commitment to work with the Regional Councils, the public,
45 everyone involved through these winter months, through the
46 various meetings that are planned again, as has been
47 mentioned, there's a meeting planned the end of November.
48 But again, I think it will be really important to work with
49 all the public to consider all of the options here. These
50 are your fish, they're your kids fish, your grandkids fish,

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1 future generations. And you know, that's one of the issues
2 related to providing fish on the spawning grounds to
3 provide for those future generations.

4
5 So again, there's a real commitment to work
6 with everyone here, the Regional Councils and everyone
7 through the winter months to address these concerns for
8 next summer and come up with an approach that makes sense
9 for the people on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim and the
10 future of the fish there.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

15
16 MS. GREGORY: I just want to make an
17 observation I made several years back going up to Stoney
18 River, talking about chinook salmon and reds. The lady had
19 few king salmon up and I asked her how come you got so
20 little bit here and she said, my -- I harvest red salmon
21 mostly and she said, I don't think I'm going to get red
22 salmon this year because the water is high. So let
23 everybody know that not all the king salmon is harvested
24 above the Red Devil area or Sleetmute. I didn't see king
25 salmon up there.

26
27 MR. COFFING: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

30
31 MR. NICK: Mike, coming back to a comment
32 earlier, having some sort of a subsistence survey, what
33 people need today, 2000, to live out in the villages.

34
35 MR. COFFING: Uh-huh.

36
37 MR. NICK: In this time period here that
38 you got in front of us, 1989 to 1999, you know, many
39 villages -- probably in all the villages, you know, the
40 village store now has a freezer, a cooler to put ice cream,
41 you know, milk and hot dog and hamburger in the freezer to
42 cook, chicken nuggets, so I'm puzzled here, you know, the
43 kings and red salmon, is pretty stable. But when it comes
44 to chum -- chum I understand, though, because when I'm out
45 there in the river fishing chum I get more reds than chums.
46 I know that the chum numbers are coming down.

47
48 MR. COFFING: Uh-huh.

49
50 MR. NICK: But cohos puzzle me here, the

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1 decline, and as I sit here listening, I wonder about
2 people's diets out in the villages. If we have more people
3 go to the local store, you know, open up the freezers and
4 buy chicken nuggets or hamburgers or whatever than they did
5 in 1989, early '90s. Maybe the surveys, you know, can pick
6 a few villages as a pilot to survey the villages, what they
7 eat, their diet, what everybody eats, you know, my wife and
8 I eat -- we eat dry fish but our kids eat something else
9 besides fish. So maybe there's a change of diet.

10

11 MR. COFFING: Uh-huh.

12

13 MR. NICK: Data based on the surveys. You
14 know, that some don't respond or some don't participate. I
15 know a number of villages that don't participate in past
16 surveys, you know, maybe five out of 70, 80 households
17 respond to the survey.

18

19 MR. COFFING: Uh-huh.

20

21 MR. NICK: So the numbers could be skewed
22 by many different ways. But a survey that you're proposing
23 to my village, in fact, our village requested to have funds
24 made available so that we could do the survey ourselves to
25 find out what people eat. Because a lot of -- many people
26 have alluded to the fact that we have more cancer today
27 because of our diet so maybe it could be two-fold, health
28 and subsistence.

29

30 But I'm puzzled with the coho.

31

32 MR. COFFING: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. NICK: Because the chums, you know, in
35 my case, last summer -- last year we had a wet summer, you
36 know, we had rain all the time so we chose not to harvest
37 as many chums as we -- but last summer we harvested more
38 but the climb was more steep last summer.

39

40 MR. COFFING: Uh-huh.

41

42 MR. NICK: I just wanted to share my
43 personal observations.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

46

47 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, I remember when
48 we used to fill our fish racks twice per summer but now we
49 don't do that anymore, we only fill our fish rack once.
50 Like Robert said, we got other food to eat at home now.

00225

1 But I know, when I was a kid we used to fish camp down --
2 at this side of Egg Island, when we play out in the water
3 there used to be a lot of fish and fish hit our legs when
4 we wade down on the riverbank, and fish disappear. And
5 there was no commercial fishing to blame then. And so
6 people quit fish camping over there anymore. They came all
7 the way across the river from Johnson River, that's where
8 it turned into like fish camp is now, it took us a long
9 time to travel there from Tuntutliak but nowadays it takes
10 us an hour and a half or an hour, then days it took us a
11 whole day to travel. But after fish disappear we start
12 catching fish down river, so most of the people at home
13 don't move to fish camps anymore. We stay at Tuntutliak
14 and fish over there now. That's because we got better
15 equipment and gear now than when I was a kid.

16
17 But I remember when I was a kid, the fish
18 disappear, it was getting hard to catch fish, that's why
19 people move their fish camp all the way to Johnson River
20 from Tuntutliak. So I think right now, fish are getting
21 low, all species like the chinook, chums or other species,
22 but people are getting to know the conservation, we get to
23 explain that at some meetings, that conservation is -- when
24 we have Kuskokwim salmon management working group meetings
25 we always talk about conservation or escapement, too, so
26 other people will have some fish, too.

27
28 So that's some of my experience.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike, we're supposed to
31 have a report and I think we're kind of off on our agenda
32 here. Go ahead.

33
34 MR. COFFING: I'm just going to -- Robert
35 mentioned briefly the importance of gathering information
36 on other fish. We don't have funding to do that each year,
37 we don't gather information on all resources each year in
38 every community. We do it in some communities when we have
39 funding. Most recently Akiachuk we did a project up there
40 last year in 1999 to gather information on all resources,
41 including everything that people said they bought and
42 harvested from the land. And there, you know, a majority
43 of the households, 75 percent of the households said that
44 nearly all of the wild fish and meat and bird that they ate
45 -- or the meat, birds and fish they ate came from the land,
46 not bought from the store. So heavy dependence on
47 subsistence in Akiachuk. Sometimes it's the things that we
48 don't see that are significant. We know people fish for
49 whitefish, salmon, and lush and pike, but aside from salmon
50 in Akiachuk, the one fish species that contributed the most

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1 to the community in terms of the pounds of food was black
2 fish, 35,000 pounds of black fish. More pounds of black
3 fish harvested in Akiachuk than whitefish and pike and
4 berbot, things that we can see and are big.

5
6 So it's all important and the amount of
7 fish, salmon that people harvest is all related to the
8 other things they harvest, it's altogether, it's not one
9 and you know I take your point that you can't just look at
10 one thing. What I'm showing you here is what we have for
11 salmon but there's a lot more out there that's being used.

12
13 That's it, thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, as long as you guys
16 don't reduce the black fish.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, let's go down to our
21 -- there's no Bureau of Land Management?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I, in the rush
28 earlier failed to realize -- or forgot that there was a
29 representative here from the Division of Sportfish that may
30 have some presentation to give. So you do have him here
31 and I believe he does want to speak and he would be
32 representing Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

33
34 MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, members of the
35 Council. I just want to keep this brief. I don't have
36 anything to report. I just want to let you know that
37 sportfish has a new office in Bethel. And what I will do
38 to expedite your meeting today is that I have written you a
39 courtesy letter already just informing you a little bit
40 about Sportfish Division and that we have submitted some
41 proposals and to expedite the meeting today I will send you
42 an additional letter explaining what sportfish does and our
43 involvement in local communities and our involvement with
44 the proposals that will be coming before you in January.

45
46 But I just want to make you aware that we
47 are here and we're going to be working with local groups,
48 we have been already, with ONC, AVCP, KNA and the
49 Department -- other divisions of the Department.

50

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1 So that's all I wanted to say. If there's
2 any questions I'll be happy to answer them.

3

4 MS. GREGORY: What's your name?

5

6 MR. LAFFERTY: Bob Lafferty. L-A-F-F-E-R-
7 T-Y.

8

9 MS. GREGORY: And your phone number?

10

11 MR. LAFFERTY: 543-1677.

12

13 MS. GREGORY: Because we do a lot of
14 jigging for lush and pike and we want to be left alone.....

15

16 MR. LAFFERTY: Uh-huh.

17

18 MS. GREGORY:because.....

19

20 MR. LAFFERTY: Okay.

21

22 MS. GREGORY:we're subsistence
23 people.

24

25 MR. LAFFERTY: Actually that's a good point
26 and just let me comment on that. The State's mandated to
27 ensure that there's a sustained yield -- sustained harvest
28 of fishery resources. The Sportfish Division is the branch
29 of the Department of Fish and Game that does a lot of the
30 stock assessment on resident species. It's probably in
31 everyone's best interest, like Mike mentioned, this
32 opportunity with Federal Subsistence monies to get
33 information where there are tremendous data gaps, and this
34 is understanding what the recent harvests are and
35 understanding what the population size is. It's very
36 possible that the population of resident species of fish is
37 very large and that the harvest is well in check, but it's
38 important to the people of the state and the primary users
39 to know where they are in relationship to those sustained
40 yields and are those harvests, can they be there for future
41 generations.

42

43 And that's what sportfish is about.

44

45 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, the last several years
46 we've been fishing, we've been noticing a lot of different
47 things on the fish and we've given them to the
48 environmental health at the hospital, YKHC and they've done
49 some studies on fish diseases.

50

00228

1 MR. LAFFERTY: Uh-huh.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: And also in regards to the
4 salmon, just before the king salmon dwindled.....

5

6 MR. LAFFERTY: Uh-huh.

7

8 MS. GREGORY:there was a lot of
9 discoloration on the fish. There were a lot of -- when I
10 cut fish -- and also on the chums. Maybe you guys need to
11 focus on something else and not on use.

12

13 MR. LAFFERTY: Through communications we
14 can learn about these things and we'll be glad to help out
15 as best we can.

16

17 MS. GREGORY: Thanks.

18

19 MR. LAFFERTY: We have a pathology lab that
20 does these things specifically. And if the Department
21 can't do it then DEC can. It's just a matter of knowing
22 where to spend materials to the right people.

23

24 Thank you for your time.

25

26 MS. GREGORY: You've been forewarned.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. You still have
29 someone -- how about Fish and Wildlife Service, National
30 Wildlife Refuge, do we have Togiak back there? From
31 Togiak, will you come forward and give us a report? Ida,
32 you wanted something?

33

34 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. In response to
36 Mary's comment on disease, last year the Federal program
37 funded a study and the report of that study of the disease
38 on chinook should be out in December.

39

40 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

41

42 MR. NELLE: Mr. Chairman, Council. My name
43 is R.D. Nelle, I'm from Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. I
44 came up from Dillingham. I'd like to give you a brief
45 summary of information from the Refuge.

46

47 Starting with fisheries, the salmon
48 spawning ground aerial surveys, I don't know, do you have a
49 copy -- was it passed out?

50

00229

1 MR. MATHEWS: I'm not aware, I don't know.
2 They don't have a copy of it, oh.....

3
4 MS. GREGORY: You can just.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead, just go
7 over it.

8
9 MR. NELLE: Okay. Those were completed this
10 year, numbers are preliminary and have been turned over to
11 ADF&G commercial fisheries. Of course most of the work
12 done down there is on Bristol Bay, a few drainages are in
13 the Kuskokwim.

14
15 We are continuing to support the Native
16 Village of Quinhagak and ADF&G on the Kanaktok and the
17 middle fork of the Goodnews River's weirs. We're hoping as
18 Charlie Burkey was mentioning before, that on the Kanaktok
19 this process will be able to go on. We were able to get
20 good numbers this year on the Goodnews. And we're able to
21 get numbers on coho which was subsistence funding which was
22 a good thing this year.

23
24 Going on to dolly varden, we started a
25 project in 1997 looking at the life history of dolly varden
26 on the Togiak River. Have continued with that process,
27 radio tagged 97 fish, found some of the fish actually moved
28 out of the Togiak River. Some were found in Igegik in a
29 subsistence net, out there, I think it was. Found some in
30 Kanaktok in the Eek, so these fish were considered to be
31 non-spawning fish. They probably weren't going to spawn in
32 the Togiak River and had moved out and were probably going
33 back to the areas they were going to spawn in in the
34 following year. That's quite interesting but it's not
35 unusual for a dolly varden to do that.

36
37 Following up on that, we're going to
38 initiate a collection of genetic samples to try to define
39 those different populations that are out there. You know,
40 some of the fish that are in the Togiak basin could be
41 actually spawning in some of those other drainages
42 throughout the -- in the Kuskokwim or in Bristol Bay. s o
43 this year we were successful in taking samples off of fish
44 in the Togiak River and the Angavini Trail Creek and
45 Kashiak, and those -- it's going to be an ongoing study, we
46 hope, to tie it in with the Northwest Arctic char and dolly
47 varden project, a genetics stock identification project.
48 So that was successful this year and it hopefully will go
49 on and we'll be able to add other drainages to that and in
50 the future be able to hopefully come up with discreet

00230

1 markers that will allow us to detect the fish that are
2 caught in the Togiak if they are fish that -- or from the
3 Kanaktok or from Eek so that will be a quite useful tool in
4 the future, I think.

5
6 Additionally on the Togiak we initiated a
7 rainbow trout study, a telemetry study and it's ongoing,
8 tracking the fish in two of the drainages there.

9
10 And that's primarily what's going on with
11 the fisheries program.

12
13 The wildlife side we've had the Mulchatna
14 Herd Caribou, we Togiak Refuge assisted ADF&G with radio
15 collaring 20 Mulchatna caribou in early April and early
16 June. Also assisted with composition and calf condition
17 work in early October of 2000. Nushagak Peninsula Herd,
18 there's going to be a meeting in Manokotak for the Nushagak
19 Peninsula Planning Committee, it will be in November and it
20 will review the status and reports of population, calf
21 survival, previous hunts and determine the number of
22 permits for the winter hunt, which is from December 1 to
23 March 31st.

24
25 In moose, in early April, Togiak Refuge
26 assisted ADF&G and radio collared about 10 female adults in
27 Unit 17(A). Let's see -- and I guess are you going to
28 cover some of that other, moose -- okay.

29
30 Other projects that have been ongoing are
31 the brown bear project. Togiak Refuge continues to be
32 involved with the Kuskokwim Mountains brown bear study.
33 This is a cooperative study with effort involving ADF&G,
34 Yukon-Delta, BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Subsistence
35 and AVCP and local residents. In early June 2000, 18 new
36 bears were radio collared and 20 originally studied bears
37 recaptured to replace their collars. Representatives from
38 the local villages participated in this capture and to-date
39 there are 29 female bears being monitored and we are
40 collecting over 2,600 locations from the marked animals.

41
42 Some of the other projects that we have
43 going are River Ranger Program on the Kanaktok, the
44 Goodnews and the Togiak Rivers. This monitors and
45 documents public use, monitors user conflicts and collects
46 various biological data. Unguided visitors are met at
47 Dillingham airport by the rangers and given an briefing
48 about the Togiak Refuge. The main topics that are included
49 are the land ownership and trespassing which has been a
50 concern on some of the rivers, camping regulations, fishing

00231

1 regulations, use of low impact camping, subsistence
2 activities, bear and river safety and waste disposal on the
3 rivers.

4

5 That's about all I have for now. If you
6 have any questions I'd be happy to try to answer anything.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have
9 questions.

10

11 MS. GREGORY: I have none.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You have.....

14

15 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik).

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anymore Fish
18 and Wildlife Service.....

19

20 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, my name is Dave
21 Cannon. I'm a fisheries biologist for the Refuge here.
22 I'd like to take just a few short minutes and talk about
23 one of the projects that we did on the Kwethluk weir this
24 summer. It was a Federally subsistence funded project and
25 I'm going to show a few slides, okay. And the one thing
26 I'd like to say about this project -- okay, one thing I
27 would like to say about this project, it was definitely a
28 cooperative agreement which I think is the true intent of
29 the Federal subsistence program here. And the weir was
30 placed on the Kwethluk River this summer and we worked very
31 closely with the village of Kwethluk and also the Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game and AVCP helped out.

33

34 What we did, we constructed -- fabricated
35 the actual weir here in Bethel, and that happened last
36 winter, I think in February we started. And this is in a
37 warehouse right here in town and we brought in two
38 employees from the village of Kwethluk and they helped with
39 the construction and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
40 gave us the use of their bunkhouse to house these people.

41

42 And then in the springtime in April --
43 well, let me just back up here a little bit. This is Boris
44 Ebchuck from the village of Kwethluk, he came in just to
45 see how the project was going. And this is one of the
46 panels that's used out there on the weir. And we use some
47 glues and things like that, that if you are in a confined
48 area like that building was, you need some breathing
49 apparatus so you don't inhale those fumes. And then once
50 the materials were all put together in late April we went

00232

1 ahead and we transported all the materials up to the site,
2 while the Kuskokwim River was still frozen. And this is up
3 near the Three-Step area on the Kwethluk River which is
4 where the weir was located, and here's the helicopter
5 bringing in one of those panels.

6
7 Then this is the installation in early June
8 of the actual weir. And this is after the weir was in
9 place and that's one of the -- there were three people
10 generally all summer long, Native village people who
11 operated, helped operate the weir along with an ADF&G
12 employee and also a Fish and Wildlife Service crew boss, so
13 this is one person on the counting shoot counting the fish
14 as they go by. AVCP provided the weather port that we used
15 this summer and also one of the radios that was used to
16 call in the counts every day to the Alaska Department of
17 Fish and Game.

18
19 And this just happens to be some king
20 salmon who decided that they were going to build a nest
21 right upstream of the weir. And there were several pink
22 salmon also that spawned right above the weir.

23
24 This just happens to be the Andreafsky weir
25 that we've operated since '93, I believe, and potential
26 future projects, I guess, as one of the pre-proposals that
27 went in here just recently was for the northfork of the
28 Andreafsky, this is on the southfork. And it looks like
29 there's good potential that we will place another weir up
30 on the northfork of the Andreafsky. One of the other
31 projects in the Kuskokwim that's a potential for this
32 coming summer is the Tuluksak River. So you know this weir
33 on the Kwethluk, anyway, that I just showed, is very
34 important as well as all of these are, especially in these
35 times of poor runs to try and assess what do we have coming
36 back in the systems. So basically I just wanted to give
37 you an example as to a Federal subsistence project that I
38 do think ran very smoothly this summer and like I said,
39 there was a lot of cooperation between different agencies
40 and local Native groups.

41
42 So if anybody has any questions, I'll go
43 ahead and answer them.

44
45 MR. OWELTUCK: Mr. Chairman, those are
46 pretty accurate on counting on the fish?

47
48 MR. CANNON: Yes, they are. There are times
49 when we get high water events and fish are able to actually
50 able to swim up and over the weir. I have a picture back

00233

1 here showing the high water, but for the most part though
2 these are about as accurate as we can get, yes.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

5
6 MR. NICK: The most that I see about
7 salmon.....

8
9 MR. CANNON: Uh-huh.

10
11 MR. NICK:they jump over -- do they
12 do that?

13
14 MR. CANNON: No, it doesn't appear that
15 they do when the water is low, we allowed them to go
16 through either one or two areas. But I imagine there maybe
17 has been a few fish that have.....

18
19 MR. NICK: In very shallow water (inaudible
20 - away from microphone) and in deep water, they don't do
21 that?

22
23 MR. CANNON: I would say it's possible but
24 it's pretty unlikely that they do that.

25
26 REPORTER: Could we all get back into
27 speaking in the microphones please. Thank you.

28
29 MR. CANNON: Anybody else have any
30 questions or anything like that? So I'm sure as the
31 Council hears these proposals that are going to be before
32 you, I just wanted to give you an idea as to what some of
33 these weir projects are like. And I was talking with
34 Lester here, just yesterday, I guess it was, and I know he
35 said he's never been to one of these weir sites and I'd
36 like to give the opportunity to some of the members here
37 if, in fact, you would be interested in going out to some
38 of these, whether they're up on the Yukon or down here in
39 the Kuskokwim, I think we can work something out. If
40 you're going to be in Bethel, let's say this next summer
41 and you can call in advance, maybe we could work something
42 out to take you up to say the Kwethluk weir or same thing,
43 up on the Yukon. So I think they're very educational to
44 see how these are very educational to see how these things
45 are actually run.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

48
49 MR. CHARLES: A lot of these villages
50 around here were against the weirs, I mean they didn't want

00234

1 weirs installed in the rivers like Kwethluk, Tuluksak or
2 these rivers on the other side until Billy McCann went to
3 the site at Goodnews Bay, and he reported and told some of
4 the people around here and made them change their mind
5 about those weirs. People before were talking that weirs
6 kill fish and -- but after Billy reported in Yupik or to
7 the people around here, I think that changed their mind.
8 So for volunteers to go to those -- look at those weirs,
9 that would help some more, too.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. CANNON: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Next on our
16 agenda is action items.

17

18 MR. L. WILDE: No, Migratory Bird Treaty
19 Amendments.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I thought we did that
22 already.

23

24 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik)

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to do it
27 again?

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MS. GREGORY: (In Yupik)

32

33 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I think the
34 only thing I've heard so far on Migratory Treaty Amendments
35 is the resolutions by AVCP. I haven't heard any reports
36 from the management councils.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

39

40 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, Yukon-Delta has one
41 more piece of information to pass on for you. Just for the
42 record, again, my name is Steve Kovach, I'm a mammals
43 biologist here on the Refuge.

44

45 First of all, Mr. Reardon sends his
46 apologies for not being able to attend. His schedule got
47 changed and he was unable to come here and our deputy
48 Refuge manager, Mr. Lee Berg, had training already
49 scheduled for this time frame and couldn't change that and
50 so that's why neither the Refuge manager or his deputy are

00235

1 here today. Mr. Reardon did want me to pass on to you and
2 assure you that he does view this group and these meetings
3 as important to the Refuge in fostering communications and
4 he just wants to extend his sincere apologies for not being
5 able to attend here.

6
7 With regards to large mammals on Yukon-
8 Delta Refuge, I provided a pretty good status report at
9 your spring meeting down in Quinhagak on the status of
10 caribou. We did have somewhere between 50,000 and 80,000
11 caribou winter on the Refuge last year, a combination of
12 the Kilbuk and the Mulchatna herds. That was, in fact, the
13 largest number of caribou that we've ever recorded out
14 here. They moved off in April moving back to their calving
15 grounds. The fall migration was about the same as last
16 year, it didn't occur until September. Within the last two
17 weeks we've had a substantial number of additional caribou
18 move onto the Refuge. What I'm seeing is we may, in fact,
19 have similar numbers this winter as what we had last year.
20 Kind of as a reminder, it was commented on earlier today, a
21 lot of people were calling and trying to ask when's the
22 caribou season going to open. There is a working group --
23 a cooperative working group for management of the caribou
24 out here. They have a plan which this Council endorsed and
25 forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board. We manage
26 caribou based on the premise that the Kilbuk Caribou Herd
27 is quite small and we want to foster the growth of that
28 herd as long as the Mulchatna Caribou -- members of the
29 Mulchatna Caribou Herd are going to come here and we're
30 going to until substantial numbers of those animals arrive
31 before opening up the season.

32
33 We are limited, in that, we cannot open the
34 season prior to the 25th of August and the latest we can
35 let that season run is the end of March. So this is just
36 kind of a reminder on how caribou seasons are set.

37
38 Like 1999, we had less than 2000 caribou
39 spend the summer in the Kilbuk Mountains. In fact there's
40 probably, in fact, less than 2000 caribou. We found less
41 than 200 females giving birth to calves in the Kilbuk
42 Mountains. This is the smallest number we've come across
43 and it took us a long time to find those animals. Again,
44 bad weather during the actual calving period prevented us
45 from conducting calving flights to determine the numbers of
46 calves born.

47
48 We did, in cooperation with Fish and Game,
49 Togiak Refuge, Bureau of Land Management, we did conduct a
50 capture on the calving grounds. WE caught 11 yearling

00236

1 female caribou to put radiotelemetry collars on. Seven of
2 those collars are still functioning today.

3

4 Over the last two years, in particular, we
5 have observing an increase in the number of Bethel-based
6 private aircraft doing what we can best describe as flight-
7 seeing trips, particularly starting in the later part of
8 February and going through April. We're quite concerned
9 about this increasing aviation traffic because they're
10 flying well below the 1000 foot above ground level limit
11 that the FAA states when pilots are in areas of known
12 concentrations of animals, they're supposed to stay above
13 1000 feet. We have witnessed these aircraft causing
14 disturbances to animals and so on and when we can get
15 aircraft numbers we do, in fact, report it. But we are --
16 I get lots and lots of telephone reports from hunters who
17 come in and say, hey, you know, we have had low flying
18 aircraft chasing caribou away and so on.

19

20 This is a growing concern. It's a growing
21 thing we've been observing, particularly in the last two
22 years and we're kind of scratching our heads trying to
23 figure out ways to get better ideas of how to get a handle
24 on this. If, when you go back to your communities, your
25 villages, talk about this, particularly, if people can get
26 a number of an aircraft, exact location and time, we can
27 pretty well nail down who the pilot is and what not. There
28 is Federal regulations that the Refuge can enforce that
29 relates to this.

30

31 Mr. Savoy commented on this a little bit
32 earlier but concurrent with the movement of Kilbuk -- or
33 Mulchatna caribou onto the Refuge last winter, we had a
34 whole lot of wolves appear on the Refuge also. In the
35 Kuskokwim River portion of the Refuge, we have less than 75
36 resident wolves on the Refuge and they're scattered among
37 six to eight packs. We have very few resident wolves we
38 just don't have a lot of food for them that's why we don't
39 have that many. We had the core part of the Mulchatna
40 Caribou Herd move onto the Refuge last winter. The people
41 in Dillingham are quite disappointed because we have their
42 caribou basically, we also wound up with their wolves.
43 Like Mr. Savoy said we sealed 70 wolves last winter, but in
44 conversations with hunters and trappers and so on, we
45 estimate that the total harvest in the Kuskokwim area alone
46 was in excess of 170 wolves last year. This is a whole lot
47 more than what we know is resident here. In our standard,
48 routine flying, I'm still seeing those resident wolf packs
49 so we still do have some resident packs but again the
50 number of animals is quite small.

00237

1 You've already heard about the moose census
2 that we conducted on the Kuskokwim River this year so I
3 won't go over that. The one that -- the biggest thing to
4 keep in mind when you're talking to people is that in 1993
5 when we did the very first census on the Kuskokwim, the
6 estimated population of 200 moose kind of basically
7 resulted in a density of one moose for every three square
8 miles. What we found last winter was a population estimate
9 of 86 moose which basically is a little bit less than one
10 moose for every 10 square miles. So it's really dropped.

11
12 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

15
16 MS. GREGORY: I need to be excused, I got
17 to go do the news and I ask Mr. Nick to come and speak as
18 well.

19
20 (In Yupik)

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay, we'll excuse
23 you.

24
25 MS. GREGORY: Excuse me.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't know, what are you
28 going to do?

29
30 MS. GREGORY: I'm going to bring him about
31 this meeting. I can't talk on my own because I'm a member
32 of the RAC.

33
34 MR. SUNDOWN: Can it be done in the
35 morning, tomorrow's news?

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, can't you take one
38 of those other people that are out there?

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 (Off record comments)

43
44 MS. GREGORY: Thank you for having the
45 meeting here and thank you guys for coming.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What now?

48
49 MR. KOVACH: Just a couple more things, Mr.
50 Chair. The brown bear project, as you heard is continuing.

00238

1 We recaptured those bears that were wearing radio collars
2 and gave them new collars and caught a few additional bears
3 to bring our number back up. Again, we had local leaders
4 come out and help and assist. Oscar Larson from Kwethluk,
5 Willard Church from Quinhagak, John Lamont from Mountain
6 Village and James Berlin from AVCP Natural Resources came
7 out to help on that project.

8

9 And in the interest of time that's I'm
10 going to talk about tonight.

11

12 MR. TIKIUM: I've got one question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: yes.

15

16 MR. TIKIUM: I think it was last year or the
17 year before they were talking about the hoof disease on
18 caribou, is there any sign of that this year?

19

20 MR. KOVACH: No. It appears to have run
21 its course. It's one of these cyclic diseases. It's one
22 of those things that we believe -- we call it an endemic
23 disease, but generally in such low numbers you don't know
24 about it until it kind of explodes and has an eruption like
25 what we had two years ago. It was unusual, in that, we saw
26 it throughout the whole winter. Usually you only see
27 evidence of it during the summer. But I had hunters in the
28 tail end of March still bringing me feet from caribou that
29 they had harvested that indicated they still had an active
30 infection. Last summer it seems to have gone away, and the
31 flying I've done so far and the flying that Roger's done we
32 haven't seen any sign of that. So it's one of those things
33 that's gone back into its quiet period, it will probably be
34 quiet for another five to eight years.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

37

38 MR. NICK: I guess pretty much anybody --
39 you can answer my question. It's pretty similar to what
40 Thad just asked. There's (indiscernible - away from
41 microphone) one of the newspapers about some -- address the
42 fish and the caribou and the moose about runny bone marrow
43 and lesions on caribou, on the inside. It's in the -- I
44 just saw it yesterday local newspaper, so it might raise
45 other questions. Is it news to you or is it -- are some
46 caribou.....

47

48 MR. KOVACH: Yeah, that is news to me
49 actually.

50

00239

1 MR. NICK: Runny marrow or.....

2

3 MR. KOVACH: When the marrow turns red and
4 soft, that's an indication that an animal is under
5 nourished, generally, is what that means. If it's white
6 and hard and firm, that's a real healthy caribou, that
7 means there's a lot of fat in it. The fat reserves in the
8 marrow are some of the last fat reserves that the body will
9 utilize to try and stay alive.

10

11 Lesions, I -- nobody's called the office
12 reporting that and what not. Fish and Game does have a
13 pathologist in Fairbanks that I can send material too if
14 somebody catches an animal and there's something there that
15 they don't know what it is, it looks unnatural to them and
16 experienced hunters know what healthy tissue looks like,
17 whether it's heart, muscle or whatever. If they just put
18 it into a ziplock bag, not only the lesion, the tissue that
19 is abnormal but also some normal tissue around it because
20 that provides the pathologist with a lot of clues as to
21 what's going on, having normal tissue as well as the
22 abnormal stuff. Just throw it in a ziplock bag, freeze it,
23 let us know what it came from, where on the body, when it
24 was caught, call me up at the Refuge and I'll make
25 arrangements to get it and get it transported. So there's
26 things that we can find out.

27

28 MR. NICK: That leads me to my next
29 question. You know, people have been saying that the
30 likens in the tundra, that they mainly feed on, the caribou
31 can feed on, is replenished in the entire area -- the
32 entire southwest region, the hills, they're just covered
33 with liken.

34

35 MR. KOVACH: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. NICK: Is it possible to take some of
38 that herd and try to keep it confined somewhere where they
39 can get used to it and then they can become healthy caribou
40 again with fat on them.

41

42 MR. KOVACH: Caribou are a strange critter.
43 When people ask us, well, why are they doing this we just
44 shrug our shoulders and say, it's because they're caribou.
45 Just when we think we get them figured out they go and
46 prove us wrong. They're what we call a nomadic species,
47 they're always moving is the problem.

48

49 Their movements are driven by two things.
50 One is disturbance and two is the amount of feed available

00240

1 and what not. And they're used to hitting an area for just
2 a little bit and then moving, hitting another area and
3 moving, that's just their strategy for survival. Not
4 staying in one area too long because if they do they'll
5 really go and hammer the likens. And in fact, there's
6 areas along the Kwethluk River and the Kashegelo River
7 that you just walk out from the river a little ways, places
8 where they spend the winter, you know, where a lot of
9 animals are there and you can see where they forage on
10 likens very heavily and what not. And I suspect that's
11 another reason why we've got so many more animals out
12 towards the coast last winter than we've had in previous
13 years. And I'm sure we'll see that again this year as
14 well. I think it's just a natural distribution of the
15 animals and what not.

16

17 What I would dearly love to see is more
18 animals cross the Kuskokwim River and use that area between
19 the Kuskokwim and the Yukon. There's a lot of food out
20 there for them. Unfortunately, very few animals make that
21 crossing and almost all of them get caught. So there isn't
22 that knowledge of good groceries out there for them to go
23 back and say, hey, I remember going out there last winter
24 and take a few along to just show them the area. And
25 that's really how caribou kind of expand use areas. It
26 takes that knowledge of one wondering around finding an
27 area and coming back and taking more, you know, more
28 animals along the following year.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.

31

32 MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe it would be easier
35 for us when you guys report, try to make it brief and give
36 us some papers to look at, it would be easier for us.

37

38 Okay, we go down to update on Migratory
39 Bird Treaty Amendment. Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
40 Council, who's taking this, okay, Vince.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: This is under Tab 5, it's the
43 last couple of pages under Tab 5, which you may want to
44 look at when you get back home because I'm just going to
45 cover the high points of it. I'm not going to go over the
46 long history of the Treaty, but basically I'm going to
47 focus on the amendments to the Treaty.

48

49 The main goals of those amendments are to
50 legally recognize traditional spring and summer subsistence

00241

1 harvest of migratory birds in Alaska. Another goal is to
2 involve subsistence users in the management of those birds
3 through participation and statewide management body, that's
4 what Tim Andrew talked about. I'll give you some
5 additional information on that statewide management body
6 and the seven regional management body. So there's a State
7 management body and seven or more regional management
8 bodies. It's also a goal to improve the conservation of
9 North American migratory birds by managing all hunting.
10 Another goal is to maintain the current level of
11 subsistence harvest.

12

13 A key point of the management bodies that
14 needs to be reemphasized is that they will include Native,
15 Federal and State of Alaska representatives as equals and
16 will develop recommendations for seasons and harvest
17 limits, law enforcement policies, population and harvest
18 monitoring, education programs, research and use of
19 traditional knowledge and habitat protection. So you'll
20 have to monitor that as this program evolves to make sure
21 that they perform those duties.

22

23 The regulations to manage the spring and
24 summer subsistence hunting of migratory birds will be part
25 of the annual process that's currently being used by the
26 Service and the states that are involved in the Flyaway.
27 As I mentioned earlier, one of their goals is collecting
28 information about harvest and so that's reemphasized there.

29

30 I need to caution you because I haven't
31 been to your Council meetings, we work with this quite a
32 bit in Western Interior and Eastern Interior to make it
33 clear to you that migratory bird management is separate
34 from ANILCA. There is no subsistence priority under the
35 Migratory Bird, so that's something you need to be aware
36 of. Any restriction that will be placed on harvest levels
37 shall be shared equally or equitably among all users
38 throughout the whole Flyaway. So these things will come up
39 as you address, maybe not as a Regional Council but as you
40 address subsistence in your communities and other groups.

41

42 We talked about the management bodies,
43 their functions are listed on Page 2. Basically it's to
44 work towards consensus on migratory bird issues. It's to
45 encourage partnerships. It's a key point. YK has been a
46 leader in developing partnerships dealing with migratory
47 birds, Yukon-Kuskokwim residents, I should say, have been
48 pushing for that for years and it's been recognized
49 worldwide. Another function of the management bodies is to
50 provide local incentives for sustainable use and to share,

00242

1 influence and responsibility for resource management and
2 conservation.

3

4 Okay, that management group has now been
5 named the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and I
6 believe Mr. Andrew did say that in his testimony. They
7 will strive for consensus on all decisions but when a vote
8 is necessary equal weight will be given to the Federal,
9 State and Native components. Remember I said, a few
10 paragraphs earlier, equal amongst the three parties. The
11 Council will provide guidelines within the regional bodies
12 -- well, they'll provide guidelines for the regional
13 bodies, the Council will, that's the Co-Management Council
14 will provide guidelines for the regional bodies.
15 Presently, the way I understand it is there'll be seven
16 regional bodies, there could be additional regional bodies
17 where there's more than one -- what are they called,
18 regional non-profits from the Native corporations, but
19 presently they're looking at seven. So the council will be
20 made up of, on the part of the user's part, right now, will
21 be seven representatives from each of those regional bodies
22 will serve on the council. And you see there in the middle
23 the seven regional management bodies and you'll see number
24 4 down there is Association of Village Council Presidents.
25 And so you'll just have to keep up on how that group
26 evolves. It could go up to 12 representatives.

27

28 I won't go over the current status of the
29 management body because Tim Andrew had more current
30 information on the dates when they're meeting than I was
31 aware of. I think if you do have questions about the
32 current status of that, would be to contact Robert Sundown
33 or somebody within the Refuge that's probably tracking this
34 closer than myself. If not, then call me up and then I'll
35 transfer you to the migratory birds program in Anchorage or
36 call Pete or call our 800 number in Anchorage and we'll
37 transfer you.

38

39 Please.

40

41 MS. HILDEBRAND: The representative is
42 AVCP, they could just call AVCP.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: That's true, correct.
45 Anyways, so whatever on that. You can find out the status
46 from different parts. The main point, concluding point to
47 get across is the goal is to have legal regulations written
48 and published in 2001 that will go into effect in 2002.
49 Also the Service policy, Fish and Wildlife Service policy
50 for enforcement will -- efforts during that time period

00243

1 will focus efforts on certain depressed goose and duck
2 populations. And I believe you've already been informed
3 over time that they're switching from -- that lead can no
4 longer be used so I don't know if I need to reinforce that,
5 but I don't know what's been shared with you.

6
7 So that is a summary of it and I encourage
8 you to participate through AVCP, their representatives and
9 work through the different organizations. Are there any
10 questions on the migratory birds?

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert Nick.

13
14 MR. NICK: I had one comment. In the
15 local, yesterday's paper, they're having a meeting in a
16 matter of days here, AVCP Co-Management Council, they're
17 meeting here in a few days discuss a number of policy
18 measures regarding exactly what you're talking about here.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: And I didn't mean any
21 disrespect to AVCP but in our region, where I work at, that
22 has not been totally resolved yet, so I didn't know what
23 level you were at. So it would be best to work through
24 your local representative. It's hard when you got to cover
25 three regions in three weeks.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anymore questions to Vince
28 on the birds. Thank you.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other agencies, groups,
33 next. We don't have so we'll get into action items.
34 Annual report, in your booklets, Tab 6.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, did you want us
37 to summarize that or did you just want to leave the Board's
38 response on your annual report? We could provide a summary
39 or it's the wishes of the Council.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What's the wish of the
42 Council?

43
44 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I've read it. We
45 got this in August so I've read it.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ida.

48
49 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. In reference

00244

1 to your annual report, on the wolf issue, the Federal Board
2 will meet in a work session to discuss what they'll do
3 about predators or if they'll take any action.

4

5 And there are fish studies that address
6 other -- the issues raised on Page 3. And on the second
7 part where you're talking about studies, there are studies
8 going on through the University and the State and the Board
9 directed Staff to get back to you with the results on
10 those. And on the request for TEK, there are several
11 fisheries projects that incorporate traditional knowledge
12 and that's just added information.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Ida.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm not down
17 playing the annual report. What we're trying to do in the
18 other regions is we're going to try to develop a tracking
19 system on these issues so that if it says, under whatever
20 annual report item that something will be done, that that
21 will be tracked. Eastern Interior's requested that and
22 Western Interior will be receiving it also. So we can give
23 you a periodic update, if needed, where things in the
24 annual report, other items, not just the annual report, so
25 you have a way of tracking when something is said that will
26 be done, where is that at. Because you do cover a lot of
27 topics. So that may be something you want to impress on
28 your coordinator when he or she is on board.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And then we go to the next
31 one, that's review of 1999 annual report and the Board's
32 response.

33

34 MR. NICK: We just did that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We just did that?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. As far as that you
39 acknowledged that your members read it and Ida gave key
40 points of some of the topics.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We'll go to the
43 next, 2000 reports, issues and topics. You got that?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Well, yes and no. This is
46 where Staff becomes all ears to see if there's topics that
47 you want addressed in your annual report to present to the
48 Board. The way that process works is at this meeting you
49 bring up various topics, Staff then -- right, I'm assuming
50 this is how it's done in your region, write up draft

00245

1 language for that or maybe you do it yourself, I don't
2 know. The regions I work with, we write it up and then we
3 send it out, you review it at your next meeting and you
4 edit it, you add, you subtract and you create a final one
5 at your next meeting and then that's submitted to the
6 Federal Board, and then the Federal Board, during the
7 summer reviews it and then writes up the response that you
8 have in front of you for your 1999 report. So that's the
9 process.

10

11 So right now I don't know what your topics
12 are, potential topics because I've only attended this
13 meeting.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

16

17 MR. NICK: I have one comment, you know,
18 one issue that I'd like to maybe get a more definite plan
19 of action and that is in the beaver -- overpopulation of
20 beaver in Unit 18. That's in number two of the Board's
21 response. It says here that in response to the concerns
22 that have been raised by the Yukon and Kuskokwim area
23 residents, that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau
24 of Land Management will work with of the villages to
25 determine the extent of these concerns for feasible
26 solutions. So I wanted to know what do I tell the people
27 at home that Fish and Wildlife is going to do to try to do
28 something about overpopulation of beaver. Because Mr.
29 Charlie -- Phillip Charlie -- Phillip Moses made a comment
30 in the meeting in March that the beaver is usually the
31 culprit that causes the decline and disappearance of
32 anadromous fish that -- the fish that are staying in the
33 area, the whitefish, pike, burbot, black fish, and thinking
34 back to what he said, he's absolutely right. Because
35 that's beaver dams that prevent the anadromous fish to go
36 back to the spawning areas.

37

38 It seems to imply here by the Federal
39 Board's comments that.....

40

41 MR. SUNDOWN: I have an update and a
42 comment.

43

44 MR. NICK: Pardon.

45

46 MR. SUNDOWN: I have an update and comment
47 for Mr. Nick.

48

49 MR. NICK: Okay, could you, thank you.

50

00246

1 MR. SUNDOWN: There are no bag limits and
2 there are -- there's an open season on beaver, there's no
3 closed season and there's no bag limit on the amount of
4 beavers you can take and those changes took place on the
5 1st of July.

6
7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, we know that. But
8 there is no incentive.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ida.

11
12 MR. NICK: There's no incentive because
13 there's no value for the pelt and not all people eat the
14 beaver -- beaver meat. So even with those new regulations,
15 the hunting of beaver did not -- there was not -- there was
16 no change, nobody hunt -- it seemed like nobody hunted
17 beaver this fall.

18
19 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, in response
20 to Mr. Nick's comments about nobody hunting, the Board
21 believed that the most they could do was to put unlimited
22 conditions as Mr. Sundown has just stated and that there is
23 some local responsibility, if you see that as a problem to
24 address it.

25
26 In addition, however, what I came up to say
27 was part of the fisheries studies, the projects that we're
28 studying, fisheries, the beaver condition is being studied,
29 I believe, in the Yukon Flats area and the Board was
30 waiting for the results of those studies, which is
31 basically the same question.

32
33 MR. NICK: Okay.

34
35 MS. HILDEBRAND: And when they get that
36 report to relate it to this area.

37
38 MR. NICK: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

41
42 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, in response to
43 a question that Vince asked about how we handled the annual
44 report prior to your time. The Staff has always had --
45 we've always given the Staff our concerns and they've
46 written up the report for our approval. And one concern I
47 have, Mr. Chairman, we were discussing the other day, the
48 harm of the -- as you know, the beaver population in some
49 areas is moving out and what they're leaving behind is a
50 lot of dams that are not being used, are just sitting there

00247

1 and the discussion was that where the dam -- where the
2 water's dropped, people are able to see the amount of
3 damage that those dams have done to the population of
4 whitefish. Because those whitefish, dead fish are sticking
5 right out of those dams and you can see them. One of the
6 concerns that I -- one of the -- I guess it's a concern
7 that I have is the possibility of having some way to remove
8 those dams that are no longer being used so that the
9 population of these whitefish that are being deleted,
10 depleted in those areas can have a chance to repopulate.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What he means is we need
13 some dynamite.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any.....

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Well, there's different
20 answers to give to that. I would rather defer to the
21 Refuge Staff to address that.

22
23 MR. L. WILDE: Well, I would like to see
24 that in our annual report, the concern that we have over
25 those old dammed dams.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

30
31 MR. NICK: I just thought I'd bring this
32 up. At the last city council meeting at home, we had a
33 joint meeting between the city and the IRA, there's an item
34 on the agenda, that Snake River dam, so I figured that must
35 have been -- I wondered about Snake River because I never
36 heard of Snake River close by so I figured it must be
37 further upriver on the Kuskokwim or somewhere off -- or
38 somewhere that I haven't been to. When we came to that
39 agenda item I asked about the agenda item and we had a
40 letter here about the Snake River dam and I said where is
41 that river and the letter was from Utah, the state of Utah,
42 how interesting, so I said, well, so the state -- we'll
43 just table it because when we talk about in a joint meeting
44 and we talk about the beaver dams, the Johnson River, we'll
45 be bringing that letter back to us.

46
47 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, one other
48 concern I have is the protection of the local species of
49 fish that we have. Because of the shortage of salmon that
50 we have in the areas that we are living in, we need to

00248

1 protect the other species of fish that are in there because
2 they are the fish that the locals usually go after. If
3 they don't have the salmon resources, then they're able to
4 go out and get the other fish that are available locally
5 and we need to see some sort of protection for those other
6 species.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We'll go to the
9 next one on our agenda, B, elections and appointments of
10 officers. Elections; Chair, vice chair, secretary you
11 could find in Tab 7.

12

13 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, before we go
14 into that, you know, this development of the 2000 report,
15 issues ad topics, maybe Vince we could write you as
16 individuals on the topics of this and maybe it might be a
17 good idea for your office or Staff to remind us that we
18 need to write to you about some of the issues and topics
19 for our annual reports since we're not going -- it looks
20 like we're not going to take the time to do it right now.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Well, if I understand
23 correctly, what I use is the transcripts as the
24 recordkeeping, so that's why I'm repeating what you said.
25 But basically what you've asked the Staff is to send a
26 reminder to each of the Council members if they have any
27 annual topics to include in the 2000 annual report. I will
28 put a time qualifier on that that we would need -- the
29 letter will give you a time to respond by because we want
30 to get it moving forward into the hands of your leadership
31 so when you're ready to meet at your next meeting, that
32 they're aware of it. So there will be a time factor in
33 that letter and sure, we can do that, and then the full
34 Council realizes that the full Council has to approve what
35 Robert or Alvin or somebody comes up with.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Vince, you could
42 handle that election because you're there in the chair and
43 you're doing a pretty good job. You're doing a good
44 job.....

45

46 MR. NICK: You're in the hot seat.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I start worrying when
49 Harry gives me compliments. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can do
50 that if you so wish or you may want to defer it to another

00249

1 member, it's whatever you'd like. If you like I can.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the way we've done it
6 elsewhere is the floor is open for nominations for the
7 position of Chair. Are there any nominations for the
8 position of Chair

9

10 MR. NICK: I nominate Harry Wilde.

11

12 MR. CHARLES: I'll second that nomination.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Are there any other
15 nominations for the position of Chair?

16

17 MR. NICK: I move to close nominations.

18

19 MR. CHARLES: I'll second that motion.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Do we need a vote on
22 that, I'm not used to being in this seat, I'm used to the
23 note taking.

24

25 MR. L. WILDE: It's about time you learned.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Is there a question -- is
28 someone willing to.....

29

30 MR. NICK: Question.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if we need a
33 roll call on this, we'll just ask, those signify by saying
34 aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Same sign for those opposed.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. That brings us up
43 to nominations for vice chair. The floor is open for
44 nominations.

45

46 MR. CHARLES: I nominate Robert Nick for
47 vice chair.

48

49 MR. TIKIUM: Second that nomination.

50

00250

1 MR. OWELTUCK: I make a motion to close the
2 nomination.

3
4 MR. CHARLES: Second.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The Chair would
7 entertain a question.

8
9 MR. L. WILDE: Question.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, all those in favor
12 signify by saying aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: All those the same sign,
17 opposed.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, it was unanimous. That
22 brings us up to the position of secretary.

23
24 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, our most
25 experienced secretary is Fritz and I'd like to nominate
26 Fritz.

27
28 MR. OWELTUCK: Second.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Any other nominations?

33
34 MR. NICK: I move to close the nominations.

35
36 MR. TIKIUM: Second the motion.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: The Chair would
39 entertain.....

40
41 MR. OWELTUCK: Question.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. All those in favor say
44 aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: All those opposed same sign.

49
50 (No opposing votes)

00251

1 MR. MATHEWS: Hearing none, it was
2 unanimous for secretary. Mr. Chair -- well, I am the
3 Chair, the Council, I believe you have a position of
4 Sergeant of Arms, I don't know if that's elected, appointed
5 or drafted so I'm at a loss if you elect that person or
6 not. Most of the other Councils do not have a Sergeant of
7 Arms, my understanding is you do have one so I -- I don't
8 know if you appoint him or elect him.

9

10 MR. L. WILDE: I think the last time the
11 Chair appointed him because of the need for one.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. If that's the
14 understanding then I think the elections are done and I
15 would turn it back over to.....

16

17 MR. OWELTUCK: The new Chairman.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I feel old because I'm old
22 -- I am the old -- I am old.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I appreciate what
27 you guys are giving me -- sometimes it's really hard for me
28 to try to be chairing the meeting sometimes. Like
29 yesterday, my brother noticed me and the rest of the
30 Council noticed me, they see that I must -- something
31 wrong. Yeah, I had lung infection, had been taking some
32 strong pills. So yesterday when we started out I had a
33 problem of remember or thinking some things because those
34 pills are too strong for me so I didn't take them today and
35 I feel better. And I thank you for giving me another
36 chance again to be in front of you.

37

38 We need Sergeant of Arms. I think it would
39 be good if we appoint someone as a Sergeant of Arms.

40

41 MR. OWELTUCK: I appoint Mr. Wilde.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there a second to the
46 motion?

47

48 MR. OWELTUCK: It's up to the Council if
49 we're going to take him.

50

00252

1 MR. L. WILDE: I have no problems with that
2 Mr. Chairman.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What?

5
6 MR. L. WILDE: I have no problems with
7 that.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We just appointed
10 him, yeah, okay. Now, we continue on our agenda; charter.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Basically
13 what happens when you develop these agendas months out in
14 advance, things are on the agenda that may not need to be
15 but basically your charter has been signed. It was signed
16 near the same time that the appointments of Council members
17 happened. So the charters are two years, there's no action
18 that I know of that you need to take at this time on
19 charters.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Now, we're on old
22 business. A, whitefish, Kasigluk. Robert.

23
24 MR. NICK: As I said earlier, the few
25 villages up there are trying to work this out. In the past
26 we had some problems on that topic but because of the
27 Federal takeover and then the whitefish disappearing, we're
28 having more agreement than disagreement so we try to meet
29 -- we decided to meet right after freeze-up -- we try to
30 meet before freeze-up, but that's one of the topics.

31
32 I'd like to have a chance for the three
33 villages up there to work this out so that if they come up
34 with some recommendation or ask for assistance, that it
35 will be coming from them rather than us coming up with some
36 idea that works elsewhere, that may not work up there. So
37 we'll be meeting here within two weeks and that's one of
38 our topics. So rather than having some discussion here,
39 I'd like to have the three villages a chance to work this
40 out because we haven't in the past. We have some
41 individuals, we have letters from concerned people on file
42 regarding the whitefish. We have history, we have
43 testimony. We have all the back-up and if we need help we
44 can ask the Fish and Game Subsistence Division to help us
45 because we've done this before.

46
47 So I can't comment on one way or the other
48 at this time without any input from the three villages.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So we leave it that way

00253

1 then.

2

3 MR. NICK: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I think what might be
6 wise is Robert, when the draft agenda goes out next time,
7 if it is moved forward, inform the coordinator you want it
8 added so it's clear to everybody.

9

10 MR. NICK: Okay.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So the final on our agenda
13 is -- second to the final is Council members -- go ahead.

14

15 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I would like
16 to move that the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, and
17 also the Staff of Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife, send a
18 letter of apology to Kotlik for not attending -- for not
19 having the meeting down there and apologize to them because
20 of their preparation for us to stay in their village and we
21 weren't able to make it.

22

23 MR. NICK: Second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll do that in a motion.

26

27 MR. L. WILDE: Uh-huh.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by.....

30

31 MR. NICK: I thought he moved.

32

33 MR. L. WILDE: I moved, yes.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Robert.

36 Discussion.

37

38 MR. GEORGE: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called
41 for. All those in favor say aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed same sign.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Other
50 problems we do have, I think from now on we have to be more

00254

1 like -- respect our Councils. Johnny Thompson, he didn't
2 get any kind of information about his term is up. He told
3 me that he never received no kind of paper of nothing and
4 he was planning to come over. And me and Robert Sundown
5 here, we do everything and try to bring him over, I thought
6 he was still on the Council. And we find out and he find
7 out, he call me, he got called from the -- Anchorage. He
8 was terminated and also someone take his place already and
9 he was really disappointed because of that. I think we
10 should -- there's some Staff or some people that know --
11 taking care of those things, make sure that if the
12 Council's term is up, give them an opportunity, that if he
13 wants to reappoint or re -- there's some papers to fill
14 out, I think it would be good help for the people, you
15 know, it's kind of hard when you don't know how to write
16 and broken English and all that like me. I sure want to
17 see everything in front of me so I could understand what's
18 going on.

19

20 I think it would be good to let him know,
21 who the coordinator, Yukon-Kuskokwim Coordinator, who's it
22 going to be -- or Vince, a lot of time I ask you, I mean I
23 try to work with you even though you are way up there and I
24 call you. I didn't have no other choice, you know.

25

26 So that's all of that. Is there any other
27 comments or closing comments or concerns from the Council.
28 Robert.

29

30 MR. NICK: I just want to express again
31 that I would like to see more outreach to the stakeholders,
32 to the users to the village, the tribal councils. Letters
33 do go out but we have the media's here in Bethel, we have
34 the radio station, we have the newspaper and we have the
35 RITs, and I think we need to reach out more with
36 information to the villages. And I feel for the future
37 because you know the number of salmon, which is the main
38 fish species that is harvested for subsistence, the future
39 doesn't look too good unless something happens and I want
40 the village people to know -- those subsistence users to
41 know -- non-subsistence users also to know. I think
42 together we're a team, you know, Federal Fish and Wildlife
43 and the State Fish and Game. We know that the Governor of
44 our state has made a declaration recognizing tribal
45 governments as an equal in government -- local governments.
46 And I think we need to have a good working relationship
47 with them.

48

49 The one question I have is, I guess, that's
50 going to nag me until the Supreme Court decides, which I

00255

1 think will be in the future, is the question of
2 navigability, who controls navigable waters on Federal
3 lands, and that is the State's appeal to the Katie John
4 decision.

5
6 And then my final concern is if the State
7 Supreme Court rules in favor of the State, what happens
8 after that? Is all that we worked for, you know, is there
9 still guarantees for subsistence priority for the rural
10 villages. So all of these are issue that are real, they're
11 here.

12
13 I recall an elder who passed away maybe
14 four years ago, his name is Jimmy, he's from Napakiak. He
15 talked about the fish declining and fish disappearing for
16 years, 10 years ago because of what he's seen and what he's
17 hearing. He thinks that in the very near future there'll
18 be no more fish for the people to catch and that's -- I'm
19 kind of hearing the same thing. So all the issues today,
20 the 2000 census, reapportionment of the State legislature,
21 it is now October but they're already saying who's going to
22 rule the legislature. Yesterday in the news and this
23 morning in the news, they were saying that it's going to be
24 a Republican dominated -- Republican legislature and we
25 know what that implies as far as the subsistence issue and
26 the declaration of tribal recognition.

27
28 So I think we have some important work
29 ahead of us and we need to continue to work together. It's
30 so important.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

33
34 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I would like
35 to thank the Staff from both Fish and Game and Fish and
36 Wildlife for all the information that you supplied us and
37 in the past and you will in the future so that we're able
38 to make a sound and informed judgment and decisions on
39 everything we need to do as active and interested members
40 of this Council.

41
42 Thank you very much for all the information
43 that you supplied us in the past and you will in the
44 future.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alvin.

47
48 MR. OWELTUCK: Okay. Did you guys pick out
49 a regional coordinator?

50

00256

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No. They're working on
2 that, not us.

3
4 MR. OWELTUCK: So they're the ones that are
5 hiring -- okay.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think I got one more
8 comment to the Council. I would like to ask Council,
9 because when the Board meetings, I go over there and
10 present your proposals. I always do my best and also I
11 help others. When I was over there one time I was stopped
12 by one person, he told me that you cannot talk like that
13 because you're Councils didn't say that. I need your help,
14 in order to help someone, other Chairman, Chair, if you
15 need help, if I know the topic of what he's talking I want
16 to help out, so that I was really -- I really felt funny
17 last year just because I was thinking to myself, that's why
18 I tried to help someone, maybe because I got broken English
19 I'm treated differently, not those other Chairs. The other
20 Chairs -- I think Ida knows that, Ida, will you explain
21 that?

22
23 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. I am almost
25 embarrassed to report this to you. A Staff person told
26 Harry not to speak at the Chair's meeting at the Board,
27 because that Staff person didn't think Harry was qualified
28 to speak. Unfortunately that Staff person was wrong.
29 Harry was at that meeting with every other Council Chair
30 because he is a Council Chair and he speaks in
31 representation of this region and this Council. I
32 apologize to you, Harry, for that person. I also spoke to
33 tell Harry that was inaccurate but the fact that he was so
34 insulted is upsetting even to me.

35
36 When you are asked by the Federal Board to
37 sit with them as Chairs of the Regional Council, the Board
38 is listening to every Council Chair that the Board invited,
39 and no one on Staff may tell any of those Chairs to shut up
40 and don't let any of them tell you to stop speaking.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's the reason I'm
45 asking you, if you could do it in a motion or whatever
46 which way, that will protect me, I mean I wouldn't be
47 embarrassed so much in front of the people.

48
49 MR. OWELTUCK: I think that Staff should be
50 removed.

00257

1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I the reason
2 why you've always been voted Chairman from this Council is
3 because we respect your judgment and we have never been --
4 I have never been able to tell you what to do anyway.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 MR. L. WILDE: And if I can't do it then I
9 don't see why you should expect some other people from
10 another area, especially Staff to tell you to shut up, you
11 represent us and if you didn't you'd hear from me also.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. L. WILDE: I think you already have
16 that authority as our Chair to do what you think is within
17 the scope of your position.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

20
21 MR. NICK: Having been on boards almost all
22 my adult life, being Chairman, you know, you speak with a
23 group, you know, basically for the board -- and then in the
24 past, prior to joining the board here we go back quite a
25 ways and I feel the same way as your brother there, I don't
26 argue with you because when you speak, you make sense to
27 me. You're talking from the heart, you're not reading
28 printed pages or trying to find the right page or sometimes
29 reading from the wrong page, you're speaking from the mind
30 and the heart, you know. And our priority here is
31 subsistence way of life. And you speak well for it.

32
33 And I'd like to send some sort of response
34 to the issue of -- for the record commend Ida for the
35 apology that she made for the Staff member, and then I hope
36 that Mr. Wilde understands and accepts the apology from Ms.
37 Hildebrand, and then I'd like to see that it does not occur
38 again at the Federal Subsistence Board level or any level.
39 So that's -- I was just trying to think how we could make
40 this official to give support by -- you know, if the
41 Chairman accepts Ida's apology for the Staff member and
42 I'll accept it, too. I think I also would be offended, you
43 know, if someone had did the same thing to me. I do have a
44 ton of respect for our Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, let's go to the
47 final of our meeting, even though that we're going to have
48 another meeting.....

49
50 MR. TIKIUM: Mr. Chairman, I have one

00258

1 thing.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay.

4

5 MR. TIKIUM: When we met yesterday, I
6 believe it was yesterday, we were supposed to pick a name
7 for the November meeting in Anchorage, come up with a name
8 for the -- I think it was a NARF meeting.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

13

14 MR. TIKIUM: And I don't think we came up
15 with that yet, did we?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: I'll look at my notes, I
18 don't believe you did as far as somebody from the
19 Kuskokwim.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: To go to the protocol
24 meeting, no, there's been no name given.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We need two or one?

27

28 MR. L. WILDE: One.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: One, okay.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Right. What's
33 happening here, to refresh your memory on that, is that
34 both you and John Hanson would go to that as the
35 coordinating fishery committee members from the Yukon.
36 There was a request by, I believe it was Mary Gregory to
37 have someone also attend from the Kuskokwim, but no names
38 were given and you directed the Kuskokwim Regional Council
39 members come up with a name of talk about it. So no name's
40 been submitted but I have it noted down here to follow up
41 on that but if you got a name that would be great.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you need two or one?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: The way Mary portrayed it it
46 would be one. And again it was a request for funding -- I
47 believe the funding will be approved but we'll have to see
48 and I was pushing it that if we put it forward, a funding
49 request with a name it goes a lot faster.

50

00259

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

2

3 MR. TIKIUM: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to go
4 ahead and recommend Robert for that meeting.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: The date is November 28th,
7 Tuesday.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that an appointment?

10

11 MR. TIKIUM: Well, I just request the Board
12 if they would approve Robert for that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If we do that on a motion
15 I think it would be better.

16

17 MR. TIKIUM: Okay. I go ahead and move
18 that we appoint Robert to the.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: From Kuskokwim.

21

22 MR. TIKIUM:to the what meeting in
23 Anchorage?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: It was the Yukon River
26 protocol -- it's called the Yukon River protocol review
27 meeting.

28

29 MR. TIKIUM: Okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion and -- second.

32

33 MR. OWELTUCK: (Nods affirmatively)

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alvin Oweltuck seconded
36 it. Discussion.

37

38 MR. OWELTUCK: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called
41 for, all those in favor say aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. You are
50 appointed.

00260

1 MR. NICK: Thank you. Vince, you'll
2 provide me with the materials?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Right. Once the
5 materials come out, which I'll be getting from that
6 committee I'll provide it to you and Harry and John on all
7 that. Right now there's no materials that I know of.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Future meeting.
10 Even though we know where we're going to have our meeting
11 next time, it is time and place you'll find at Tab 8, the
12 window is there. I just found out that we could move it
13 back or move it forward and maybe move it back if there's a
14 problem. You could find that on Tab 8.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the Council,
17 what Harry is saying there is, for the record, is that
18 you're going to meet next time in Kotlik and if weather or
19 something doesn't allow you to meet that first date you
20 select that you'll try to reschedule it and then from
21 there, I believe your fall back would be, after trying
22 several times to reschedule it, would be Bethel. And that
23 we would -- that Staff communicate to Kotlik that's what
24 you're going to do, that's what you desire.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Will you give us when is
31 the next window going to be.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the window on Tab 8,
34 the window is from February 19th, Monday the 19th
35 through.....

36
37 MR. SUNDOWN: March 23rd.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, sorry, March 23rd.
40 Seward Penn jumped out of there, that's what threw me off.
41 So the real window that we would prefer you to select would
42 be between February 19th and March 23rd. The Staff that
43 serves you also serves Western Interior so you would have
44 to avoid, if at all possible -- well, you'd have to, the
45 week of March 4th through the 10th because the Staff --
46 many of the Staff that work for you would be meeting with
47 Western and Eastern Interior in Fairbanks.

48
49 MR. L. WILDE: March 14th over to the 17th,
50 something in that area, would that be conflicting to

00261

1 anybody?

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What's March 14th?

4

5 MR. L. WILDE: March 14th is.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Wednesday.

8

9 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, Wednesday. That
10 period is open, it don't look like there's anybody meeting
11 in that time frame and Staff won't have no excuse for not
12 making it.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: They would be available.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think the most important
17 thing would be to let Kotlik know in that certain day, what
18 they're going to have, you know, they usually have all
19 kinds of meetings and plans.

20

21 MR. L. WILDE: They might have potlatch or
22 something.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We might go on top of
25 them.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Mr. Chairman, when we
28 set up these meetings we usually contact the village to
29 find out if their calendar's open. If they say, no, we
30 have something going on there then we immediately get back
31 to you, the Chair and then you direct us where to go from
32 there, which may be polling all your other members on other
33 dates. So we'll be doing that fairly soon after this
34 meeting to see if Kotlik's available for those dates.

35

36 MR. L. WILDE: The 16th.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: I think you're possibly
39 indicating a two or three day meeting.

40

41 MR. L. WILDE: Does anybody have a problem
42 with the 14th through the 16th, that's Wednesday, Thursday
43 and Friday if we need it. It would give us Saturday to
44 come back because Sunday, some areas don't have no flights
45 going in there.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: You would fly in on the 13th.

48

49 MR. L. WILDE: Right. If the weather's bad
50 on Friday, going back and then we have at least one day,

00262

1 Saturday to make it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince, let me ask you a
4 question, why I have to come back here in order to go to
5 Kotlik? Like in the March -- in 45 minutes flight from
6 Mountain Village to Kotlik and I have to take this route,
7 come all the way over here and I have to go back all the
8 way back and go over my own village to get to Kotlik.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I can give you my own
11 knowledge on it, is that we just want to spread your wealth
12 and knowledge across as far as we can.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: To be honest with you, Harry,
17 I don't know the flight schedules. Robert can tell you
18 that.

19

20 MR. SUNDOWN: Cassandra made the request
21 over to Omega Travel and that's how it came out.

22

23 MR. L. WILDE: You know, can I make a
24 suggestion. I think what might be better is to get us into
25 here and then take us all in one plane and bring us down to
26 Kotlik.

27

28 MR. SUNDOWN: That was the goal of that
29 planning, yes, so you guys were all going to go on one
30 flight on Grant. One Navajo scheduled to go by Grant to
31 Kotlik at 11:30 on Tuesday.

32

33 MR. L. WILDE: Can we stop in Mountain
34 Village and pick the Chairman up and go, that's right on
35 the way?

36

37 MR. SUNDOWN: Arranging charter -- that
38 would be charter arrangement and arranging charters with
39 the Office of Subsistence Management is something special.
40 You.....

41

42 MR. L. WILDE: I believe you. I believe
43 you.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MR. SUNDOWN: I mean it's not something you
48 can do quite easily.

49

50 MR. L. WILDE: Okay.

00263

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Every day that, Haglund
2 goes down at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, 45 minute flight.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: I think the Staff that deals
5 with travel are present here and they're hearing you on
6 that. So give us a report card on the next time on that.

7
8 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, if there are
9 no further discussions on the dates and places, I'd like to
10 move that the next meeting be held in Kotlik starting the
11 14th to whatever day it takes us.

12
13 MR. TIKIUM: Second.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion and second.
16 Discussion.

17
18 MR. TIKIUM: Question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question. All who in
21 favor say aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. We're
34 going to have our meeting at Kotlik. This time someone
35 should make a motion that we're adjourned.

36
37 MR. NICK: I so move.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the
40 floor to adjourn, is there a second.

41
42 MR. TIKIUM: I second that motion.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second to the motion. All
45 who's in favor say aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose say no.

50

00264

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. We're

4 adjourned.

5

6 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

7

* * * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix, do hereby
certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 92 through 264 contain a
full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME II - YUKON-
KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING, taken electronically by David Burrows on the 25th day
of October 2000, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at
Bethel, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 6th day of November 2000.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04 _